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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

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LOOKING AHEAD

Palmer Development Office plans for busy 2021

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER – In 2021, the Palmer Community Development Office plans to continue rolling out new programs to address housing needs, improve infrastructure and boost economic activity in and around town, including for residents and businesses in surrounding villages.

The office works with the Massachusetts Dept. of Housing and Community Development, Quabog Valley Community Development Corporation, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, and other agencies to secure funding, plan and execute an array of public projects to improve the town and enhance the quality of life of local residents.

According to the PCDO page on the town's website, the office's mission is "To revitalize Palmer by: meeting the housing and service needs of the low- and moderate-income population; building and repairing infrastructure vital to the health and safety of the residents; and supporting business development and retention."

Community Development Director Sarah Szczebak said prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the office submitted a new application for a federal Community Development Block Grant requesting \$825,000 she hopes will be awarded to the town in early 2021.

"That grant includes money for a redesign of Hryniewicz Park in Three Rivers," said Szczebak.

"Our plan would be to hire consultants to work on the redesign with heavy public input. We want to make sure that we're renovating the space so that it's something that people want to utilize."

Although Szczebak said meeting details have yet to be all worked out, discussions on Hryniewicz Park will most likely take place online to observe pandemic health protocols.

"We want to get a lot of public input and hope to create a committee of residents who could then advise us on smaller or more detailed aspects of the plan," said Szczebak.

Szczebak also said the money the town applied for will also include funding for the CDO's housing improvement program and social service outreach to the town's

domestic violence victims. The money will also be used to hire a consultant to create a housing production grant. A lack of affordable housing was mentioned during a recent Palmer Master Plan Steering Committee meeting as one of the town's more urgent issues.

Whether it's redesigning Hryniewicz Park, a 1.5-acre facility named in honor of a World War II veteran, or a list of other important projects, Szczebak said she's excited over the progress she and

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Courtesy photo

A redesign of 1.5-acre Hryniewicz Park in Three Rivers is one of the anticipated projects the Town of Palmer has in the works for 2021.



LIGHT UP PALMER WINNERS

Christmas lights contest brightened community's spirit

PALMER — Light Up Palmer's Neighborhood Decorating Contest had a total of 84 entrants with a total of 434 people voting for the People's Choice award.

Light Up Palmer's Judging Crew this year was Donna Mead, Shannon Sweeney, Robin Lamothe, Linea Lamothe, Audrey Barone, Gloria Byrnes, and Chris Smith. On behalf of the Light Up Palmer Committee, Chair Chris Smith gives a special thanks to Demore's Automotive "for providing the standout truck that gave extra enjoyment to children as we drove through neighborhoods. You could see children peering out windows and people came out to wave or played music for the crew."

For Christmastime in a year that was challenging for all, Smith said participation in the 2020 Light Up Palmer helped renew faith in the community and gave everyone something to feel good about.

"We truly feel wonderful about offering this contest to all Palmer residents," she said. "As we drive

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Traditional Winner: 4404 Main Street in Thorndike.

Courtesy photos

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Health Tips for 2021

Baystate Health doctors weigh in on what's good for you

SPRINGFIELD – Now that a stressful 2020 has come to an end, there are many ways to make 2021 healthy and safe for you and your family.

Doctors at Baystate Health suggest setting realistic goals and prioritizing what is most important to you, taking small steps, and remembering not to beat yourself up if you encounter a setback in your health goals for 2021.

Some healthy goals to consider as you continue on your journey to good health are:

• **Make A Plan for Good Overall Health** – While weight loss, health screenings, and stress reduction are among some of the best ways to achieve and maintain better health, creating a plan that is manageable is the key to success. Look at the new year as a time to set small, attainable goals that you can maintain throughout the year, that will also lead to long term success and better health.

Now is a great time to make an appointment for an annual exam and include your physician

in your health goals for the year. For those who don't have a primary care provider, the best time to choose a doctor is before you need one. Over time, your health care needs may change or you may face a new health challenge. The relationship you have with your healthcare provider, who knows you and your medical history, can lead to a better overall outcome that will protect your health. Also, as the global telemedicine trend continues, especially with the advent of COVID-19, it provides a fast and convenient way for you to connect with your doctor for urgent needs such as fever, cough, and skin rash, as well as management of chronic conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure.

Whether you want to lose weight, quit smoking, or reduce stress, your healthcare provider can suggest additional resources such as support groups, reading material, or if appropriate, medications or aids



Dr. Linda Schoonover

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COMMUNITY

Three Rivers residents celebrate the spirit of giving

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

THREE RIVERS – While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt everyday life, people such as Three Rivers residents Jason and Dawna Wemette continue to go the extra mile to bring some joy in their neighbors' lives.

Through Facebook, Jason said he expressed his interest to donate two Christmas trees to families that couldn't afford them. That's how things started, but the couples' quest to make a difference didn't end there.

"I came up with an idea, thinking back on some hard times that I've had where I wanted to reach out and see if there was anybody in the area that needed the hand," he said.

Dawna and Jason started donating gifts and canned goods to families in need as well. Also, Jason, Dawna and their son William Wemette dressed up as Santa, Mrs. Claus and The Grinch and invited residents to stop by their house for fun visits. Dawna said they've



Courtesy Photos

Out of the goodness of their hearts, Three Rivers residents Jason and Dawna Wemette worked together to give neighbors in need a memorable Christmas and inspired others to do the same in the process.

been fortunate during the pandemic because both are essential workers who couldn't isolate and do their jobs.

"We know a lot of people that weren't as fortunate and not been able to provide for their families on a day-to-day basis," said Dawna.

"We didn't want the kids, not

being in school and not being able to play with their friends, to have Christmas taken away from them too, because of something out of their control."

What Jason said he enjoyed the most about himself and Dawna

RESIDENTS | page 6

COMMUNITY

Demore's ended a year of outreach by fulfilling Christmas wishes

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER – As soon as the COVID-19 Pandemic began nearly a year ago, prominent local business Demore's Automotive began several outreach efforts to help ensure the community was taken care of until life returns to normal.

Demore's recent efforts included donating toys and sponsoring families for the Santa's Elves for Palmer first ever "Stuff the Cruiser Event." Over \$1,000 worth of toys and clothes were donated to the event and more than \$1,500 in additional toy and clothes donations were collected from customers and others in the community.

Breakfast and lunch were bought for the participants of the event and everyone had a free chance to take home a prize from a cache of \$2,000 in Christmas toys.

That's not all Denmore's did in 2020 to show its love for the community.

The business paid \$800 for the standout truck used to take Light Up Palmer's judging crew around town for the second annual Neighborhood Decorating Contest about 10 days before Christmas.

Another recent outreach effort



Courtesy photos

Co-owners of Demore's Automotive, Jay and Michelle Demore.

involved Santa's Elves for Palmer Organizer Lori Chiacchia's daughter, Catherine Chiacchia. During the raffle, Catherine noticed a toy Jeep that was one of the prizes and knew what she wanted Santa to bring her. The little girl even went as far to ask God to help her win it.

That's all Jay Demore needed to know.

He bought a second toy Jeep and brought it to Catherine a few days before Christmas. But he was

careful not to blow his cover – or do anything to shatter a child's belief in Santa. Denmore's produced a video on its Facebook page beforehand in which they made it seem like Santa sent a letter saying he will send the toy to Catherine in care of Denmore's to deliver off to her.

Jay Demore said he was excited to Catherine's joy.

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Pack 164 celebrates with Santa

Drive-Through Santa Visit

Palmer Cub Scout Pack 164 recently hosted a drive-through Santa visit for the Cub Scouts and their families. The Pack usually hosts its annual holiday Pack meeting, but due to COVID restrictions in place, they were unable to all gather together. Instead, Scouts hosted the drive-through Santa event so Pack families could still visit with their favorite jolly, red-suited person! The Cub Scouts and their families drove through a lighted path and past Santa's campsite before being able to see the old elf himself. They received their achievements and a little gift as they visited with him. Palmer Cub Scout Pack 164 is chartered by Second Congregational Church and open to any boys and girls in the community in grades kindergarten through the fifth grade. For more information, email bsarecruiter164@gmail.com.



Lily W. lets Santa know what she wants this year.



Lars T. tells Santa what he wants for Christmas this year.

Courtesy photos

Santa relaxing at his campsite.



Eagle Hill School

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WEEKEND COUNSELOR

For the academic year running September – June, and summer program needs in July:
Hours: Friday: 3pm-11pm, Saturday: 9am-11pm, Sunday: 9am-5pm, Optional: Sunday 5pm – 8pm

A Weekend Counselor is responsible for enhancing the quality of life in the dorms as part of the Eagle Hill Student Life program. This includes fostering a cooperative and considerate residential learning community for all students. The position carries a wide range of duties, responsibilities and requires a high level of commitment of both time and effort. A Weekend Counselor plays a central role in building a residential community for the students

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for supporting the student body in their effort to generalize daily living skills.
- Responsible for the smooth operation of the dorm floor, Student Life program, safety and productivity for 15-20 students.
- To serve as a role model by demonstrating responsible behavior, integrity and good judgment.
- Collaborating with faculty serving a Student Life shift, to maintain an organized and consistent dorm floor.
- Enforce rules and ensure adherence to the Student Code of Conduct and dorm floor expectations.
- To listen and provide an empathetic ear and sound judgment by helping students come to their own conclusions about how to address problems.
- To take part in planning and supervising both on and off campus activity programming for students.
- To collaborate information and activities with weekday dorm counselors.
- To assume other responsibilities as assigned by the Director of Weekend Services.

Specific duties:

- Be available to reside overnight in the residence halls.
- To provide active leadership in a variety of activities throughout the Student Life program.
- As an information resource, a weekend counselor is expected to help students deal with conflicts by adopting impartial solutions to issues that arise. When necessary, weekend counselors will collaborate with Director of Weekend Services, Student Life administrators, and/or a student's advisor.
- Attend appropriate training sessions when they arise.
- To complete all necessary reports and records needed for Eagle Hill School.
- Specifically, the entering of log notes pertaining to contributions to the community or interactions with students, both positive and negative.



Courtesy photo

Green Insurance spreads cheer to local not-for-profits

REGION — Every year since they launched Richard R. Green Insurance Agency in 2005, Green and his wife Marcia would collect toys and donate them, along with a matching cash donation, to Toys for tots and Soldier On.

But that was in pre-COVID times.

Like just about everything else in 2020, traditions had to take a back seat to health protocols and tricky logistics. Instead of the toy drive, the Greens, who have offices in Monson and Hampden, decided to spread Christmas cheer by making cash donations to local organizations in need. As Christmas approached, they helped the not-for-profits close out their 2020 books with a little greener lining.

The Monson Senior Center received \$500; \$250 was donated to the Make-a-Wish Foundation; and Lorraine's Soup Kitchen in Chicopee

has an extra \$600 to help feed local residents in need.

"We want to thank our customers and staff for their support and wish everyone a happier 2021," Richard Green wrote in an email.

Asked how the recipients were chosen, he said each one had a specific connection to the agency.

"The Monson Senior Center was suggested by Christine Davenport who lives in town (Monson). Make-A-Wish is one my best friends, Bruce Stebbins', cherished foundations. Lorraine's Soup Kitchen came to us from our team members Melissa Devins and Sarah Curtis, who both live in Chicopee."

Like other local businesses, the agency had to make adjustments during the year to keep its doors open. And unlike others, Richard R. Green Insurance literally kept its door open.

"This has been a challenging

year and our goal has been to maintain service with a personal touch," Richard said.

"Both of our offices are fully open to the public, subject to safety parameters. As difficult as this has been for all of us, we still need to feel like human beings and not numbers."

He heaps credit on his staff, customers, and the towns in which they do business for coming together during a pandemic-marred year.

"We have worked hard to be apart of the communities we serve," Green said. "We have a fantastic staff, who are personable, friendly and work hard for our customers. They are a privilege to work with!"

With 2021 just around the corner, he had parting words for 2020.

"We wish for everyone to be happy and safe and know that our doors are open," he said.

Correction

In last week's Year in Review, an entry about the retirement of Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School social studies teacher Mark Thompson was accompanied by the wrong photo.

Over the course of 31 years, Thompson has taught 3,500 students, made appearances as a stand-up comedian and magician while teaching and said by showcasing these skills, he taught his students that there is "magic in the world out there," and to keep their eyes open to "appreciate everything that's out there."

Some of the goals that Thompson said he is working on accomplishing in retirement include writing a biography for the late Magician Don Viano titled "Viva Vaino," and a book from the notebooks he kept of his students' quotes. Also, he said he is working to obtain a hypnosis license.

The correct photo of Thompson that should have accompanied his entry appears here.

Accuracy is our No. 1 priority. If you spot an error in this newspaper, please bring it to the attention of our editor by sending an email to mharrison@turley.com or by calling 413-283-8393.



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Aaron Posnik
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Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at mharrison@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

3 EASY WAYS TO REACH US

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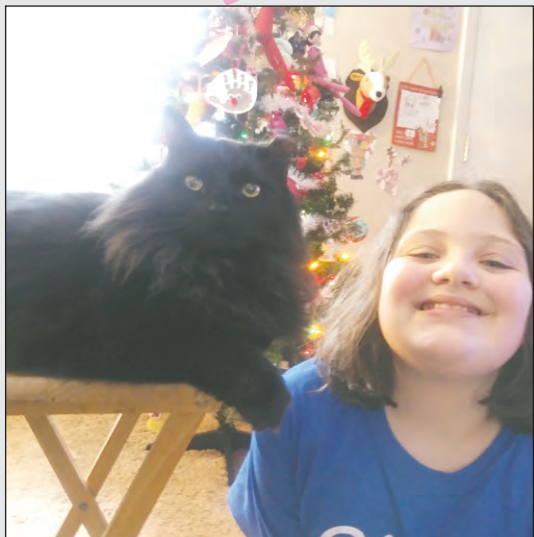
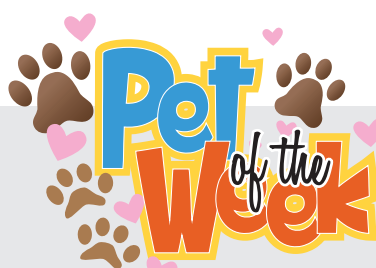
The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



KITTY

Sarah Sutcliffe of Palmer submitted this photo of her daughter Chloe Paro, 9, with her cat, Kitty. Each week we showcase readers' pets here and on Facebook. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse...you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to mharrison@turley.com.



Jay Demore of Demore's Automotive dropped off a custom toy Jeep for Catherine Chiacchia, who prayed for one and also asked Santa to bring it to her for Christmas.

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"The look [of joy] in a child is what it's all about," he said.

"It's all about the community," Demore said.

"That's what gives me joy – just seeing the community, businesses and families thrive."

To learn more about the services Demore's provides and the outreach efforts the business is involved in, visit its page on Facebook.

HAPPY **New Year!**

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Here's to
looking forward to
a better New Year!

Coalition hears Baystate update on virus

Professor provides a virus overview

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – The Quaboag Hills Community Coalition hosted Molly Gray, president and chief administrative officer for Baystate Health Eastern Region, and Megan W. Harvey, a Springfield College professor to provide perspectives on COVID-19 during a Zoom call Dec. 21.

Gray said Baystate's seven-day positivity rate that week was 8.1%, which is about the highest the health-care company has seen. "But it's consistent with what's happening across the state," she said.

She said there were 158 of COVID-19 cases within Baystate's hospitals as of Monday, Dec. 21.

The big news she had to share was 2,127 employees just got their first dose of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine. "This could be a turning point," Gray said. Since Pfizer and Moderna vaccines differ somewhat although each needs two doses several weeks apart, she emphasized it is important to stay with the same manufacturer for the second shot.

As of that morning, Baystate officials had just 260 vaccinations left to give out, and hopes are that Moderna's COVID-19 vaccines will be on the way shortly; they've been ordered but they haven't yet arrived, she said.

The vaccines are given in a central location so those receiving shots can be monitored for any side effects. A small number of those receiving the vaccine may have an anaphylactic reaction to it,

so benadryl and EpiPens are kept on hand. Of the 2,500 people receiving a vaccine at Baystate, three people experienced an immediate reaction but felt fine after taking benadryl, she said.

Gray said Baystate system-wide has 250 employees who are out with COVID-19, or must quarantine themselves after being exposed the coronavirus. "Every little bit helps or hurts us," she said about the ups and downs of having staff out or having them back to work.

"The good news is what we're not seeing is the flu," Gray said. Healthcare officials across the country have worried here would be a "twindemic" of the flu and COVID-19 cases, which could overwhelm hospitals.

She said it has been really taxing and really tough for frontline workers, and JAC Patrissi, facilitator of the meeting, asked her to convey the group's gratitude for all their work.

Gray asked those attending to join her in role-modeling good behavior during the pandemic such as mask wearing, social distancing and refraining from large holiday gatherings.

Epidemiologist

Springfield College Professor of Health Sciences Megan Harvey said it is exciting because it looks like science will save the day with COVID-19 vaccines, which will help particularly frontline workers.



Molly Gray



Megan Harvey

She said it is made of DNA from the coronavirus, which is then flipped to become RNA, but contains no actual virus material.

The coronavirus is more infectious than Ebola but less infectious than measles, mumps or rubella, but it's infectious enough to have its growth be exponential, she said.

Even with best estimates of COVID-19 deaths, the numbers indicate more people have died during the year than usual, and some of them are likely related to COVID issues.

As far as transmissions are concerned, big and small particles of the virus are spread, but it is also an airborne disease, because tiny particles can be suspended in the air for longer times and travel further making good ventilation important.

When asked about an evolved version of the virus recently found in England, Harvey said that's what viruses do, they involve, and often become more infectious. However, with the increase in its infectiousness, the virus usually doesn't become deadly, she said, and expects this coronavirus to be no different.

Schools

Harvey said she expects vaccines will be offered in the spring and summer, but the vaccines are not for children under 18 as of yet. "I expect next fall to be a much more normal school year." She also expects the rest of the school year will remain in the hybrid model, with a couple of days in-person and the remainder through remote

learning. She said it was probably unrealistic to expect schools could return to a full in-person schools this school year.

Although vaccines are becoming available, she said all safety measures must stay in place to reduce the spread, including mask wearing, six-foot distancing and having adequate ventilation. She said it is thought that there is not a lot of spreading through surfaces.

She said children are less likely to develop COVID-19, and if they do, they usually have a less severe case compared to adults. Children often have no symptoms or very mild symptoms.

When asked about herd immunity, Harvey said it means when a large enough percentage of the population has immunity against the virus.

She pointed to measles, which has about a 90% immunity rate these days, and to have immunity from COVID-19, 70 to 75% of the population would have to be immune for the cases to decrease.

Harvey also said it is clear that it has been harmful for students to not be in school. "It isn't clear if that's from the anxiety of living in the pandemic," she said, or being out of school without the fun of socialization. She also said students are experiencing more anxiety and depression, as are adults.

She said the only way to really stop the virus is by frequent testing of once or twice week, and then following up with contract tracing. It's an expensive proposition to do that testing, which is why it is mostly private schools and colleges that can afford to carry it out.

She was optimistic that "science helped save the day."

"I feel very hopeful that by February we'll be coming down the other side," Harvey said.

Small business can apply for a share of \$668 million in COVID relief funds

BOSTON — Bars and restaurants, gyms, retail shops, photographers and more can now apply for financial aid available through the state.

Up to \$75,000 per businesses is available pending eligibility.

Last week, Gov. Charlie Baker's office announced the launch of a \$668 million program to provide financial assistance to Massachusetts small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program in part relies on the pending federal COVID-19 relief bill recently passed by Congress and signed into law Sunday night. It's unclear, however, when the money earmarked in the federal legislation will flow to states, businesses and individuals.

Regardless of the developments at the federal level, the Baker-Polito Administration will start releasing millions in new funding to restaurants, retailers, and other small businesses throughout the Commonwealth as soon as this week, Baker's office said.

Also last week, the Baker administration announced nearly \$49 million

in grants through the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC) COVID-19 Small Business Program to support over 1,158 small businesses. More than 10,000 applicants had sought relief in this grant round, according to Baker's office.

Additional grants will be made available to eligible small businesses through MGCC. The Small Business Grant Program was established in the fall and currently has a pool of eligible applicants awaiting funding. This additional funding will allow the state to award more of those pending applicants. Eligible businesses that already applied to the program, but were not funded due to limited funds available, will be prioritized for funding first and do not need to reapply.

The funds will also be used to stand up an additional grant program at MGCC. This program will target the industries most hard-hit during the pandemic.

Eligible industries for the new program include:

Restaurants, bars, caterers
Indoor recreation and entertainment establishments
Gyms and fitness centers
Event-support professionals (photographers, videographers, etc.)
Personal services
Retail

The new business relief program would offer grants up to \$75,000, but not more than three months' operating

expenses, to be used for employee wage and benefits costs, space-related costs, and debt service obligations.

The online application portal for the new program opened Dec. 31 and will close on Friday, Jan. 15. Awards are expected to be announced in early February.

Eligibility requirements and details on how to apply are available at empoweringsmallbusiness.org.

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the town anticipates will take place in 2021.

"The housing production plan will be great to see what the housing needs are," Szczebak said.

"It'll build off of what the housing chapter of the Palmer Master Plan [addressed] and delve a little deeper into what the needs and potential op-

portunities are specifically for affordable housing."

For any inquiries, email Szczebak at sszczebak@townofpalmer.com or call 413-283-2614. Also, to learn more about the programs in full detail, visit townofpalmer.com/communitydevelopment.

Top Floor LEARNING

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Viewpoints

Importing drugs could endanger lives

By Earl D. Fowlkes Jr.

On most issues, Democrats and Republicans remain deeply divided. But there's one policy that unites both — prescription drug importation.

Earlier this year, the Trump administration issued an executive order enabling states and individuals to import medications from foreign countries. Biden has voiced support for allowing Americans to buy drugs from Canada. Both parties have good intentions. Making medicines more affordable for patients is a goal everyone shares. But importation isn't the right solution. It'd expose millions of Americans to potentially counterfeit medications while offering few, if any, savings.

The FDA's drug approval process is the gold standard in ensuring that medicines are safe and effective. But imported drugs wouldn't go through that process -- the FDA lacks the resources to subject them to the same rigorous scrutiny. While there are plenty of legitimate online pharmacies in Canada, there's also plenty of scammers looking to ship bottles of fake pills to vulnerable Americans. That's why four former FDA commissioners sent a letter to Congress highlighting the dangers of circumventing our nation's drug supply chain, which is currently the safest in the world. They warned importing drugs would "harm patients and consumers and compromise the carefully constructed system that guards the safety of our nation's medical products."

Canadian health officials agree. They've previously warned that Canada will "not assure that products being sold to U.S. citizens are safe, effective, and of high quality." This lack of oversight means many "Canadian drugs" — which often originate in other countries and are merely shipped through Canada — are adulterated. One FDA study found that 85 percent of confiscated drugs that were supposedly imported from Canada were actually manufactured in 27 other countries. Many didn't include English instructions, and some were counterfeits.

Counterfeit drugs pose a significant danger to patients here in the United States, especially the most vulnerable populations. Sixty percent of Americans suffer from chronic diseases that require regular adherence to medication. Communities of color, who suffer from chronic illness at higher rates than do white American, face even higher risks.

As someone who suffers from hypertension and type 2 diabetes, I'm keenly aware of the perils of receiving counterfeit medicines. Over the years, some Americans have illegally imported medicines from what they thought were legitimate Canadian pharmacies — but the drugs turned out to have no active ingredients, or worse, contained toxic substances. If patients take ineffective drugs that amount to little more than sugar pills, their chronic conditions could spiral out of control.

Even if importation were completely safe — and it isn't — it wouldn't save Americans nearly as much money as proponents believe. Canada has no interest, and no ability, to act as America's pharmacy.

There are simply too many American patients. Americans fill 4.5 billion prescriptions annually. Demand from the United States could overwhelm the Canadian drug market in just 38 days. Over 1,500 drugs sit on Canada's drug shortage list — the Canadian healthcare system hardly has the bandwidth to support billions of new requests from Americans.

That's why Canadian patient groups have urged leaders not to facilitate large-scale drugs exports to the United States. Drug importation, though well intentioned, is doomed to fail and could endanger many Americans' health. It's up to a Biden administration to reverse course and either rescind the Trump administration's importation rule, or at the very least, instruct the FDA to not approve any state applications for importation programs.

Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr. is the President and CEO of the Center for Black Equity. This piece originally ran in the Washington Blade.



Earl D. Fowlkes



Gardening questions to end the year

This question came to me from a reader who enjoyed the most recent gardening column that appeared in the Barre Gazette: "I loved what you had to say about your Babci's Christmas cactus. Mine just finished blooming. Could you please pass along some detailed advice so that I can have a repeat of this year's breathtaking blooms next Christmas?"

I am so happy you enjoyed last week's article. I'd be more than happy to give you some tips to make your Christmas cactus bloom abundantly next year! First, concentrate on plant care. Once the plant has finished blooming it will go into a period of rest, and will need very little water for nearly two months. When growth resumes in spring, water when the soil surface is dry to the touch and provide it with a dose of half-strength liquid fertilizer. Place in indirect light, an east or north facing window is best. During the summer months the plant can go outdoors as long as it is kept in filtered light. It will rest again in early fall, prior to bud set. You'll notice that it won't be as thirsty during this period, so water accordingly.

Then, consider the two environmental factors that are responsible for coaxing a Christmas cactus into bloom. The first is temperature and the second is light. If temperatures at night range between 55 and 60 degrees for a six-week period the plant will set buds regardless of day length. If temperatures run higher than that, 13 hours of uninterrupted darkness will bring about buds. Simply put the plant to bed each night from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. until buds form. If your plant sets buds and then drops them prior to full bloom it is likely due to overwatering or exposure. For this reason keep it away from drafty windows, doorways or radiators. This sounds like hard work, but is really quite simple. I'm sure you'll be delighted with breathtaking flowers next Christmas as well!

Carol has a problem with her kalanchoe. "Some of the leaves on my plants have spots of sticky sap on them. Do you know what is causing this and what I can do to prevent it?"

It's funny that you write about this particular problem with your kalanchoe! I recently saw some sap on my own plant. I had it in a mixed container of succulents over the summer and lo and behold, I brought it inside and now it has bugs.

Look at your plants closely, concentrating your attention directly above the portions covered in "sap." I almost guarantee you will find a flat, oblong-shaped, waxy-looking insect. Scales, as well as other sucking insects such as aphids or mealy bugs, excrete honeydew, a sweet concentration of plant sap. If left on the leaves long enough, sooty mold will form on the honey dew, coating them in "black dust." Besides being unsightly, sooty mold diminishes the plant's ability to make food. To get rid of it, treat the insect problem first by spraying with an insecticidal soap. After a month or so, examine your plants closely for additional drops of honeydew; should you find some, repeat

the entire process. As with insecticides of any kind, follow the directions on the container carefully.

In the greenhouse, growers target kalanchoe flowering to begin in early December. Colors include red, yellow, orange, salmon, pink and most shades in between. Individual flowers are diminutive, but in since they are held in clusters the plant as a whole is stunning. Another attractive feature of kalanchoe is its dark, shiny green leaves, perfect as a backdrop for all those brilliantly-colored flowers and pretty in its own right when the plant isn't in bloom.

The kalanchoe needs bright indoor light. Prevent overwatering by allowing it to dry out some in between waterings. A balanced fertilizer can be applied once a month during spring and summer. To initiate flowers in time for Christmas, put the plant in a place where it will receive complete darkness for 14 hours a day beginning in mid-September. Sticking to a schedule, say from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily, will make it easier to remember. Once the plants have finished blooming, remove spent flowers and trim back foliage to encourage dense growth. New plants are easily started from stem cuttings in the spring.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

Will my U.K. pension affect my Social Security?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I lived and worked in the United Kingdom prior to coming to the U.S. at age 45, which qualified me for a U.K. State Pension worth the equivalent of about \$740 U.S. dollars per month. Since moving to the U.S. I have contributed to the U.S. Social Security system for 14 years and my estimated U.S. Social Security benefit is \$1,643 per month. I have heard about something called "WEP" and must be honest and say I don't fully understand. Can you provide some advice or references so I can understand what happens to these sums when I retire? I don't have any other pension income, so understanding these numbers is important. FYI, I hold both U.S. and U.K. passports and will retire in the U.S.A. Signed: Blessed from the UK

Dear Blessed: The "WEP" provision you refer to is known as the "Windfall Elimination Provision." It affects anyone who is eligible to collect Social Security benefits, but who also has a pension from another entity (corporation, public agency, or foreign country) which did not participate in the U.S. Social Security program (meaning that SS FICA payroll taxes weren't paid during that

employment). WEP will reduce your U.S. Social Security benefit by using a special formula to compute your benefit amount. Generally, the WEP reduction is determined either by the number of years of substantial Social Security covered earnings that you have, or the WEP maximums (one of which is that your U.S. Social Security can't be reduced by more than half of your non-covered pension). With less than 20 years paying into the U.S. system, you will incur one of the maximum WEP reductions.

Something else important to understand is that the current estimate you have from Social Security doesn't include the WEP reduction. That estimate assumes that you will continue to earn at your current level until you reach your full retirement age. You haven't shared your birthdate, but from your email I assume you are now about 60-years-old. If you were born in 1959, your full retirement age (FRA) for U.S. Social Security purposes is 66 years and 10 months (if you were born after that your FRA is 67, and if you were born before that subtract 2 months for each year prior to 1959). Your FRA is when you will get your "full" Social Security benefit. If you claim before that (age 62 is the earliest you can claim) your benefit will be

SOCIAL SECURITY ■ page 6

Letters to the Editor

Republicans need a new home

We need a "New Republican" party. Would-be Republicans who believe in the Constitution and our country more than the power grab and wealth goals of Donald Trump have no political home. They have no party to belong to or promote.

These long-standing honest Republicans who believe in the rule of law need a party. The well-armed white supremacists, left over klansmen from the KKK and neo-Nazis who mourn the demise of Fascism and Hitler can stay with the party of Trump.

On Feb. 19, 2020, when Trump pardoned 11 money launderers, fraudsters and tax evaders, he included two drug kingpins and a woman who ran a successful Medicare fraud scheme, ripping off the taxpayers. They were all guilty of their convictions but they were also Trump loyalists. Trump associates that told the truth like Michael "the Fixer" Cohen went to jail. Others like Roger Stone who was convicted of seven felonies but remained loyal to and lied for Trump got a pardon.

Now Trump is pardoning many more of his criminal friends. We have never had a president with no many criminal friends. Neither have we had a president with such disregard for the truth, the law and the Constitution and guilty of so many crimes himself.

Republicans who honor truth and integrity don't want to be associated with such a selfish and narcissistic criminal. They need a respectable party with some principals which would include empathy for the victims of Trump's falsehoods especially regarding the virus.

Also, they don't want to live in a dictatorship. Trump has an amazing control over his base that see him as God's choice. However, that misled base will start to break up when the prosecutions begin and people realize how they have been duped.

It can't be soon enough.

Malita Brown
Wilbraham

As a new year nears, some investment lessons from 2020

As the year draws to a close, it's fair to say that we've all learned something about the social, political, physical and environmental forces that have affected everyone. And, in some ways, our lives will be changed, perhaps permanently. But as an investor, what lessons can you learn from 2020?

Here are some to consider:

The markets look ahead. Something many investors discovered in 2020 is investment prices don't always move in the same direction as the overall economy. This might not have seemed apparent right after the COVID-19 pandemic struck in mid-February, as the overall economy and the stock market took big hits. But just about five weeks later, the markets began a rally that lasted several months. During this time, the economy also recovered somewhat, but still remains on weak footing. What can explain this discrepancy between the markets and economic activity? Essentially, economic numbers, such as the unemployment rate and gross domestic product (GDP), reflect what's happening today, but the markets are always looking toward tomorrow, which means they are anticipating a stronger economic recovery and the results that come with it, such as greater corporate earnings in 2021. No one can say for sure what the future holds, but you can usually know the market's opinion by its performance.

Opportunities will always exist for investors. Although the coronavirus seems unprecedented, the equity markets have rebounded from many crises before it. From war to global financial meltdowns, the market has seen it all. But even at the height of these events, when the markets might be most affected, individual segments or industries can do well. For example, in the current environment, when many people have been forced to work and shop from home, and get their entertainment online, it's probably not surprising that some parts of the technology sector have seen their economic activity grow, along with their stock prices. Here's the key point: Investment opportunities always exist, especially in times of market stress — and smart investors will find them and incorporate them into their portfolios in a way that's appropriate for their goals and risk tolerance.

Patience and discipline can pay dividends. As mentioned above, the stock market dropped sharply in the weeks immediately following the pandemic, but then gained steadily for months afterward. Investors who tried to "cut losses" and exited the market likely did so at the wrong time and missed out on the beginning of the upturn. Unfortunately, this is not uncommon; Investors who overreact to market declines often find themselves on the investment sidelines just when a new rally begins. Rather than being reactive in this way, you may be better off sticking with a long-term investment strategy, and buying and selling investments only when it makes sense for your situation, such as when you need to diversify your portfolio.

For many reasons, it's unlikely that we'll see anything exactly like 2020 again. But some of the investment lessons we learned are applicable in every year, so keep them in mind for 2021 and beyond.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor, Ludlow branch team Steven A. Crespo and Jackie Czepl. Their office is located at 658 Center Street in Ludlow. Call 413-547-6048 or email steven.crespo@edwardjones.com.

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to mharrison@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

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Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

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HEALTH | from page 1

that can help. Getting advice from your primary care provider and support from friends and family is a great way to keep your New Year's health resolutions going all year long.

— **Dr. Linda Schooner,**
Baystate Primary Care at Baystate Wing Hospital

• **Don't Allow Sleep Problems To Affect Your Health** – The COVID-19 pandemic has led to more sleep problems at a time when sleep is especially important for health and well-being. Good quality sleep is important for preventing infections and keeping your immune system working well. Studies have shown that sleep deprived people don't mount the same immune response after vaccinations as good sleepers, so it is important to make sure you get a good night's sleep prior to getting a flu or COVID vaccine. A recent study published in the Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine by Baystate Health's Dr. Eva Mok showed increased rates of flu in patients with untreated sleep apnea. So, getting good quality sleep is just as important as getting enough sleep. If you are having difficulty sleeping or signs of poor-quality sleep with loud snoring, difficulty staying asleep, urinating frequently at night or daytime sleepiness or tiredness, you may benefit from a sleep medicine evaluation.



Dr. Karin Johnson

— **Dr. Karin Johnson,**
medical director, Baystate Health Regional Sleep Program and Baystate Medical Center Sleep Laboratory

• **Get Vaccinated** – With all the attention on with the COVID-19 vaccines, it is not too late to get your flu shot if you haven't received it yet. Flu vaccine was updated this year to match the anticipated circulating strains. If you belong to any of the groups prioritized to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, please get it. Both the flu and COVID-19 vaccinations are important means in preventing serious respiratory infections. Beyond the flu and COVID vaccines, it is important to keep up to date on adult immunizations. The protection you have from some childhood vaccines can wear off over time requiring you to get booster shots.



Dr. Armando Paez

— **Dr. Armando Paez,**
chief, Infectious Disease Division, Baystate Health

• **Reducing Your Risks for Cancer** – Reducing identified dietary and lifestyle risk factors can help prevent many diseases, including cancer. Don't use tobacco, avoid drinking too much alcohol, increase moderate aerobic exercise to at least 30 minutes daily most days of the week (moderately vigorous walking will do), and if overweight, shed some pounds.



Dr. Wilson Mertens

— **Dr. Wilson Mertens**
vice president and medical director, Cancer Service, chief, Division of Hematology Oncology, Baystate Regional Cancer Program, Baystate Health

• **Keeping Kids Healthy** – Until everyone gets their COVID-19 vaccines, parents need to model and help their children follow the basic COVID-19 safety guidelines of mask wearing, handwashing, social distancing, and avoiding indoor gatherings with anyone who is not in your close family pod. Parents need to keep their children healthy by keeping up with their regular visits with their pediatricians to monitor their growth, development, general overall health, to give them any needed vaccines to prevent serious infections, and to keep up



Dr. John O'Reilly

with medications for common conditions such as asthma.

During stressful times, parents need to be very aware of their children's mental health, checking in with older children on a daily basis about how they are doing, and watching for any signs of depression and anxiety related to the pandemic and social isolation. Also, during the pandemic there are 3 basic tasks for parents.

1. Tell your children that you love them and show them that love throughout the day in a multitude of ways.
2. Tell your children that you will do the best you can to keep them safe during the pandemic, and demonstrate that by modeling mask wearing, handwashing, social distancing, and avoiding indoor gatherings with people who are not in your close family.
3. Tell your children that whatever happens during the pandemic you will work together as a family to overcome any difficulties. Modeling resiliency will teach your children the skills that they will need to overcome the difficult problems they may face as they grow older. Pediatricians are here to help patients and families through these difficult times, and parents can reach out to their pediatricians with any concerns about their children.

— **Dr. John O'Reilly,**
chief, General Pediatrics, Baystate Children's Hospital

• **Reducing Your Risk for Diabetes** – Over 34 million Americans have diabetes and 88 million American adults – approximately one in three – have prediabetes.

Prediabetes puts you at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes and also increases your risk of developing cardiovascular disease. By modifying your risk factors and adopting a healthy lifestyle – from eating more nutritious foods and limiting your portions to exercising to maintain an appropriate weight – you can help delay or prevent some of the serious complications of diabetes such as heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney damage and limb amputations. Aside from reducing your risks for diabetes, if you want to maintain good health in 2021 and beyond, consider if you are overweight eating 20% less which can lead to slow sustained weight loss over time; fit in exercise, even 10 minutes at a time which can lead to significant physical and mental health benefits; addressing your mental health which can be the primary barrier to a healthier you.

Also, quit smoking, this is the best decision you can make for your health.

— **Dr. Chelsea Gordner,**
director, Baystate Inpatient Diabetes Service, Departments of Adult and Pediatric Diabetes at Baystate Medical Center and Baystate Children's Hospital



Dr. Barry Sarvet

• **Good Mental Health** – There are many ways to improve your mental health. Consider getting outdoors for walks in nature, ideally with others (socially distanced and masked). Find opportunities to be kind. Even though many of us are hurting in various ways nowadays, it's not unlikely that there are others who are hurting even more. It's important to remember that we all have things to give: attention, compassion, listening, forgiveness, it doesn't have to be material. Giving feels good year round, much better than receiving.

Also, be kind to yourself: treat your body well by eating healthy food and not overwhelming it with unhealthy substances such as too much alcohol, sugar, and more; don't be mean and punitive towards yourself, if you notice mistakes you've made or things you don't like about yourself--acknowledge them and make a commitment to change, make a plan to change, and get started.

— **Dr. Barry Sarvet,**
chair, Department of Psychiatry, Baystate Health

• **Women's Health** – Annual preventive exams are vital in detecting conditions like breast cancer or cervical dysplasia at an early, manageable, and treatable stage. The well-woman visit is a perfect time to address bothersome symptoms, set health goals and learn updates on disease prevention. Checking in annually with an established provider supports a trusted relationship which facilitates seamless care if a medical problem arises.



Dr. Julie Thompson

— **Dr. Julie Thompson,**
FACOG, IFMCP, chief, Obstetrics, Baystate Franklin Medical Center and Pioneer Women's Health

• **When Emergencies Happen** – My health tip for the new year is one that will come in handy for a lifetime. I often get the question: "When should I go to the Emergency Department compared to Urgent Care?"

It's not really a simple answer, but a good rule of thumb when any new, acute, severe, uncontrolled symptoms need to be addressed in the Emergency Department (ED). For example, if you are having the worst headache of your life or experiencing any new acute severe shortness of breath, chest pain or abdominal pain, you should go the Emergency Department. If you are having any bleeding from an injury that is not under control with simple first aid measures, that also belongs in the ED. If you are experiencing any new neurologic symptoms or new seizures/convulsions, that also needs to be attended to in the ED.

Anytime there is a loss of consciousness from any cause, that should also be evaluated in the ED. Urgent Care is an ideal locale for the care of minor injuries and ailments like coughs, colds, earaches, urinary tract infections, insect bites and stings. Urgent Care is also appropriate for acute flare-ups of chronic conditions such as migraine headaches, asthma, gout, and eczema.

Most urgent care centers have on-site x-rays and can take care of acute fractures and other minor traumas. It is also important to know during the current pandemic that you should not be afraid to go to the ED with any new acute severe symptoms as all hospitals have protocols in place to protect patients and their families from potential exposure to COVID-19. Trying to "tough it out at home" can be a fatal mistake if it's an acute heart attack or stroke.

— **Dr. Brian P. Sutton,**
FACEP, medical director, Baystate Health Urgent Care

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\$1 billion to bolster unemployment fund, aid employers proposed

BOSTON — Legislation was filed by Gov. Charlie Baker's office last week aimed at keeping the state's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund solvent and easing the tax burden on employers whose contributions fuel the fund.

The proposal also seeks to lower the costs of servicing the Commonwealth's debt with the federal government. If approved by the legislature, the measure would "provide an estimated \$1.3 billion in unemployment insurance relief to the Commonwealth's employers over two years," according to a news release from Baker's office.

The main provisions of the legislation include a two-year freeze on the scheduled increase in employer contributions from a per-employee average of \$539 to \$866. It also authorizes the issuance of special obligation bonds to repay federal advances.

"In order to fund the unprecedented increases in demand on the unemployment system in Massachusetts as a result of COVID-19, the Commonwealth has received federal cash advances," the release from Baker's office states.

"Through the issuance of bonds, the Commonwealth will be able to ensure positive trust fund solvency to enable the continued payment of benefits. The utilization of capital markets also allows Massachusetts to avoid paying punitive federal tax increases on employers regardless of their experience rating if federal advances are not repaid by November of 2022. Bonds issued will be supported by an unemployment obligation assessment and will not be general obligations of the Commonwealth."

State Sen. Eric Lesser said he looks forward to finding solutions that aid both employers and workers who are suffering because of the pandemic.

"The COVID19 epidemic triggered waves of layoffs and financial hardship, especially for our small businesses and their employees," Lesser said last week.

"Our unemployment insurance system was supporting over 1 million people at the pandemic's height, and we continue to face historically high jobless rates. Since the pandemic began this

spring, the Legislature has taken many steps to support impacted businesses and families, including expanding unemployment insurance, extending the number of weeks of relief, waiving waiting periods, and allocating tens of millions in direct aid to hard-hit local businesses. Moving forward, significant pain remains, and there is much more that needs to be done, including providing relief to businesses facing exorbitant new fees and other steps to support the unemployment insurance system. I look forward to working alongside my colleagues in the legislation and Governor Baker to move much needed reforms and help forward."

Another local lawmaker, State Sen. Anne Gobi, said she supports the measure.

"I am in favor of doing as much as possible to assist our small businesses and I support the Governor's bill," Gobi said.

"We all know how devastating this past year has been and we must do all we can to protect people and our businesses. Keeping both healthy is a struggle. There is a comprehensive economic development bill currently pending before the Legislature includes additional substantial investments in small businesses and I am advocating to have that released before the end of the year."

Baker's proposal also establishes an employer surcharge on contributory employers.

"In 2020, all federal advances taken to pay benefits are interest free," Baker states in the release.

"However, interest on federal advances will begin to be charged beginning in January of 2021. The first interest payment is due in the fall of 2021 and it cannot be paid from the state unemployment trust fund, per federal law. To fund interest payments on repayable advances, the legislation also establishes a separate fund to house surcharge proceeds. The passage of this provision authorizes the Department of Unemployment Assistance to make this assessment but does not require the surcharge if interest is waived through future federal legislation."

Stop & Shop now offering flu shots

REGION – Stop & Shop announced this month that flu shots are now available to Massachusetts children three years and older. With the State requiring all students to be immunized before the end of 2020, Stop & Shop has worked to expand its flu shot offering to patients three years and older, which are now available without a prescription or appointment.

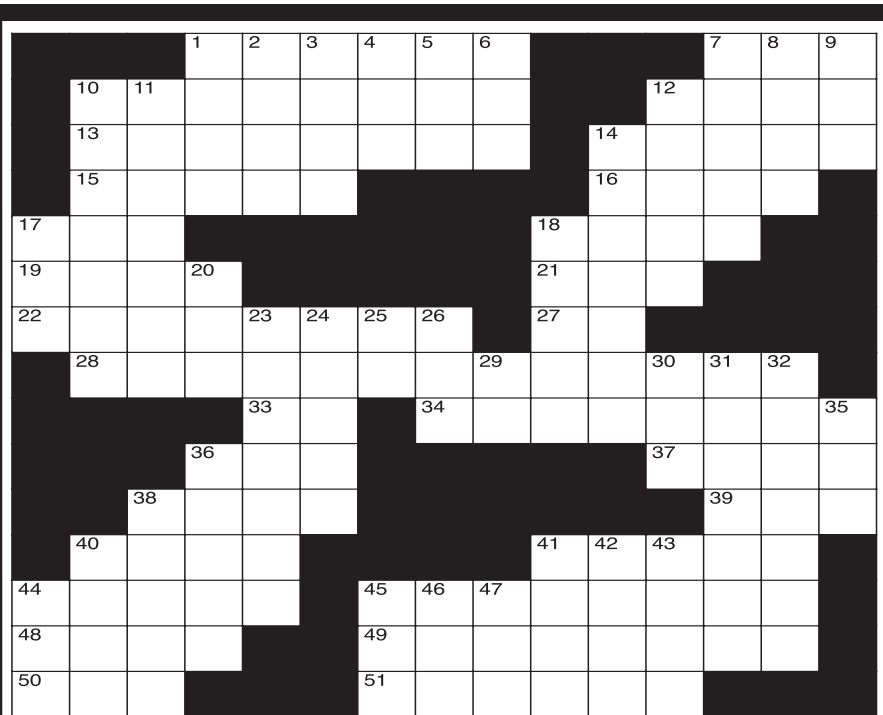
Stop & Shop pharmacists said they are eager to do their part to protect the expanded patient population and aim to vaccinate all children three years and older with parental consent. During immunization, patients will be required

to wear PPE and pharmacists will be equipped with masks, gloves, and face shields, while the immunization area will be disinfected and sanitized between each patient.

The pharmacy team utilizes the same thorough disinfection protocols for all patients, to ensure the health & safety for patients of all ages.

Customers can now virtually consent to immunizations by visiting stopandshop.com/pharmacy or scanning the contact-free Pharmacy Consent QR code in-store.

FLU SHOT | page 6



CLUES ACROSS

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7. "Hawaii Five-O" actor McBride
10. Most aged
12. Fitted with a shoe
13. Courteously
14. They form over cuts
15. Western Alaskan river
16. Aggressive men
17. Farm animal
18. Young woman (French)
19. Sixth month of Hebrew calendar
21. Short cry
22. State capital
27. Rural delivery
28. "Twilight Zone" creator
33. Gigabyte
34. Flammable
36. Supervises flying
37. An actor who plays a principal role
38. Furnace for pottery
39. Fall back
40. Afrikaans word for language
41. Chinese city
44. Fleshy
45. Inventor
48. Taxis
49. A citizen of Spain
50. Important age for aging workers (abbr.)
51. Body part

CLUES DOWN

1. Chinese mountain range
2. Romanian city
3. Fishermen cast it
4. Shelter from wind
5. Sign language
6. Pigen
7. Make sore
8. Flat metal shelves
9. Forms that say who you are
10. Cigar lovers' necessity
11. Popular cooking ingredient
12. Skin covering the head
14. Unshakable
17. Exclamation meaning "Finally!"
18. One of the wise men's gifts
20. Take away from
23. In accordance with the law
24. Nicole Kidman's husband
25. NY Giants legend
26. Utilize
29. Beloved Hollywood alien
30. Unwell
31. More destitute
32. Grinded together
35. Sun up in New York
36. Italian-made cars
38. Most sacred site in Islam
40. Rip apart
41. Go in a specified direction
42. Freshwater mussel genus
43. "___ the Man" Musical
44. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
45. West coast time zone
46. Mimic
47. You can get one in summer

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FLU SHOT | from page 5

“Stop & Shop is always looking for ways to make things easier for our customers, and our trained & trusted pharmacists are here to help parents make sure their kids are protected against the flu this season,” said Brittany Orlando, clinical lead for Stop & Shop Pharmacy. “Stop & Shop has conveniently stocked up on additional vaccines in advance due to COVID-19 and flu season coinciding. We’re excited that our local Stop & Shop pharmacists can now help to keep more families healthy this flu season as we expand our ability to offer flu shots to children three years and older.”

This year, Stop & Shop is offering a variety of standard dose flu vaccines, all of which protect against four strains

of flu virus and are indicated for patients of all ages permitted in the state in which they live.

Those who are 65 years or older will also have the opportunity to choose from two specialized senior vaccines – Fluzone HD and Fludac – which have been proven to be more effective than the standard dose among seniors. In addition, Stop & Shop pharmacies carry several preservative-free, latex-free, cell-based vaccines and its pharmacists are available to assist each patient in selecting the one that is best for them, while addressing any concerns they may have regarding allergies, preservatives and adverse effects.

SOCIAL SECURITY | from page 4

reduced (even before WEP), and if you wait beyond your FRA you’ll earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) which will increase your benefit amount. DRCs stop at age 70.

Based upon what you’ve told me, I believe that your WEP reduction will probably be limited to one of the maximums, either half of your monthly U.K. pension, or the maximum for your “eligibility year” (2022?). We don’t yet know what the standard maximum WEP reduction for 2022 will be, but for 2020 it is \$480. That is the most that your Social Security benefit could normally be reduced. But if your U.K. pension is about \$740 U.S. Dollars, then your maximum reduction should be about \$370, because the WEP reduction can’t be more than half of your non-covered (U.K.) pension. So, your U.S. Social

Security benefit of \$1,643 will most likely be reduced by about \$370 to about \$1,303. You will need to contact the U.K. pension system to see if any of your U.K. pension will be offset by your U.S. Social Security benefits.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Jason and Dawna’s son, William Wemette, dressed up as the Grinch to help uplift the spirits of children and families who stopped by for a socially distant visit on Dec. 22.



Santa Claus stopped by the Wemette’s address early to spread Christmas joy to the residents in the Three Rivers area.



William and Jason Wemette dressed up as Santa Claus and the Grinch and allowed children and their families to stop by for a socially distant visit.

Courtesy Photos



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YOGA FOR EVERY BODY

RESIDENTS | from page 1

working together to brighten the spirits of their neighbors in need and help ease their financial burdens was the genuine appreciation the couple received.

“With COVID and everyone losing their jobs, I wanted to try and bring some positivity to the community,” said Jason.

The couple encouraged those who needed help to private message them via Facebook rather than respond with a post. That way, anyone taking the offer of assistance could

remain anonymous to the public.


“[The holidays] is when you mainly find out you’re in a not-so comfortable spot, so to speak. It’s when you want to get things for your children and family members and you’re not able to. That’s why I figured it’d be easier to ask if there was anybody out there to message me so they don’t feel embarrassed because, a lot of times, people just don’t really [want] to ask for help.”

As for the importance of lending a hand

to those in need during the holidays, Dawna said it’s a way to conquer the depression and negativity taking place because of the pandemic.

“Every time you turn on the news, Gov. [Charlie] Baker is taking something else away and there’s been people that have gone months and months without being seeing their kids or grandkids,” said Dawna.


“I think it’s important to try to bring something positive [to the community].”



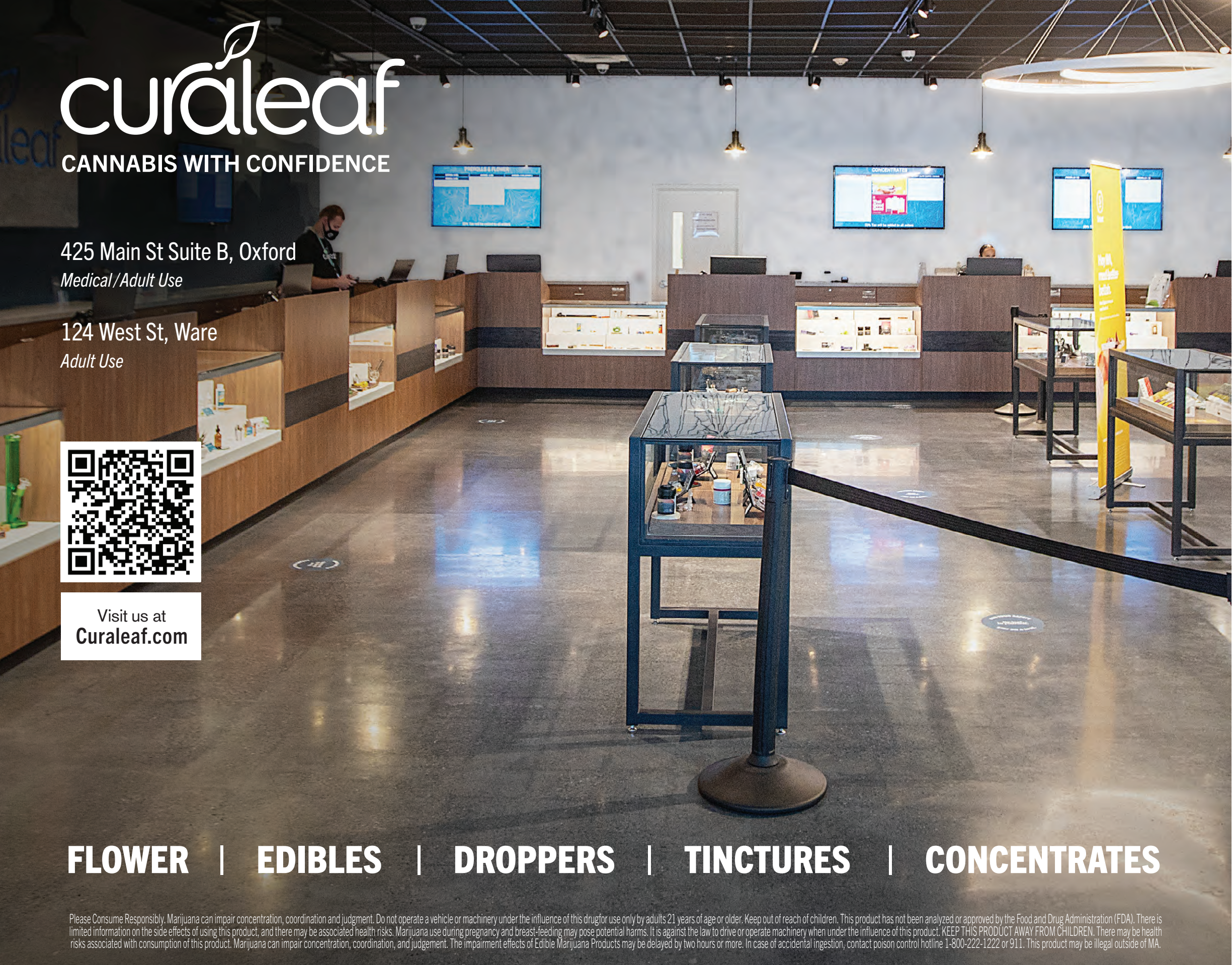
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SOCCKER



The Monson High School girls soccer team plays against South Hadley on Nov. 2. Monson defeated South Hadley for the first time in three years.

File photos

Monson girls season cut short by COVID-19 case

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON— Qualifying for the Western Mass. tournament has become an annual event for the Monson girls' varsity soccer team during the past 15 years.

After winning four straight Western Mass. Division 4 titles between 2013 and 2016, Monson made the move up to Division 3 prior to the start of the 2017 regular season. The Lady Mustangs postseason success continued, as they played in three consecutive semi-

final matches and advanced to the Western Mass. Division 3 finals in 2018.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lady Mustangs and every other girls varsity soccer team in Massachusetts only played a regular season schedule. There was not a postseason tournament held this past fall.

Had there been a postseason tournament, the Lady Mustangs probably would have been one of the favorites to capture the Western Mass. Division 3 title.

"It would've been nice to see

what this group of players could have done in the postseason tournament had we had a normal season," said Monson head coach Eric Degnan. "I'm really fortunate to coach these kids. All of them are good people and they get along with each other very well. They also work very hard at practice and they're always ready to play every time they take the field."

The start of the 2020 regular season was delayed a month and Monson was able to win all five of the matches that they played.

"I'm just grateful that my play-

ers had an opportunity to have some type of a season this year," Degnan added. "With all of the uncertainty that was around us at the end of the summer, there was a lot of talk about whether we would even have a season."

The Lady Mustangs had eight seniors listed on this year's roster and they also had several talented underclassmen.

"We had a good mixture of players on this year's team," Degnan said. "We had eight experi-

MONSON | page 8

HIGH SCHOOL

Boys field hockey moves forward



File photos

Boys playing field hockey has been a controversial topic over the years, with some believing it has given teams a decided advantage.

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION — This spring, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Board of Directors will vote on a proposal to start a boys field hockey program.

The rule change has already been approved at the committee level in votes taken earlier this year, and will move on to consideration for adoption.

Field hockey has had its share of controversy over the course of many years as boys are currently allowed to play the sport with girls, the gender that typically dominates the sport.

It's believed boys give many teams a competitive advantage and it has shown in small spurts of improvement among various teams over the years.

Locally, Southwick, South Hadley, and Holyoke have been among teams that have benefited from having males play over the course of the recent time.

Southwick was a Western Massachusetts Division 1 cham-

pion in the mid-1990's with boys playing on the team. The team also enjoyed some success in the early 2000's with boys on the team.

South Hadley was one of few teams that knock off Longmeadow one year in the Western Mass. finals with a pair of boys playing on the team. Holyoke, while having a large number of talented female players, have also had boys on its teams during the past decade.

The addition of boys field hockey has been proposed by Sherry Bryant, the MIAA Associate Executive Director and Field Hockey Committee Liaison. The field hockey committee fully supported the rule.

According to Bryant, the rationale of the rule change is to "to allow the structure of this pathway for boys to be created and available for individual schools and co-op programs as they look to move forward. We recognize that in the absence of viable gender specific programs that all high school players may participate in the cur-

FIELD HOCKEY | page 8

BASKETBALL

Hall of Fame announces eligible candidates for 2021

Planning Two Separate Enshrinement Ceremonies in 2021

SPRINGFIELD — The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame today announced the list of eligible candidates for the Class of 2021, including first-time nominees Doug Collins, Michael Cooper, Howard Garfinkel, Lou Henson, Paul Pierce, Val Ackerman, Yolanda Griffith and Lauren Jackson.

Returning to the ballot are fan-favorite nominees Chauncey Billups, Chris Bosh, Richard Hamilton, Bob Huggins, Ben Wallace, Chris Webber, Jay Wright, Swin

Cash and Becky Hammon among others.

A first look at the list of eligible nominees was provided by The Jump on ESPN, hosted by Rachel Nichols, and Class of 2021 nominee Paul Pierce. A complete list of eligible candidates can be found attached.

Following the Hall of Fame's traditional timeline, Finalists from the North American and Women's committee for the Class of 2021 will be announced in the timeframe of NBA All-Star Weekend, which is scheduled for early March. The entire Class of 2021, including those selected by the direct elect commit-

BASKETBALL | page 8

HIGH SCHOOL

Rollback will 'not affect winter sports'

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION — In a statement released last week by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, the rollback plan by Gov. Charlie Baker will not affect winter sports.

Baker's plan decreases capacities in most businesses and other venues, as well as the indoor gathering size being shrunk to just 10 people.

Because of COVID-19 surges that have occurred over the last two months, Baker has strengthened mask mandates, and scaled back business, and has established an attempt at a curfew by closing restaurants at 9:30, shutting down alcohol sales at the same time, and

issuing a stay-at-home advisory from 10 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The advisory will likely affect game times for the winter season, but the sports that will be allowed for the winter season will still go on despite the restrictions. It is also possible some of the restrictions will be lifted as the season goes on.

Tara Bennett, director of communications for the MIAA, said the Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has been in touch with the MIAA regarding Baker's rollback of the "re-opening" of Massachusetts.

"The office (EEA) confirmed with the MIAA that Gov. Baker's announcement on Dec. 22 of rollbacks on certain sectors will not have an impact on high school athletics."

SOFTBALL

Relics able to get through 2020 season

LUDLOW — The Western Mass Relics, which is a Senior Softball League that's been in existence since 1994, was faced this Spring with the possibility of their season being canceled due to the Coronavirus. With the season questionable and the Relics always concerned for player safety, the Relics worked closely with the Board of Health, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Town of Ludlow and The Fish and Game Club to be one of the few sports leagues in Western Mass to play a full schedule.

The Western Mass Relics had 176 players agree to play and fortunately not one person came down with the Coronavirus. Among the steps taken to play safely were the

following:

- * Temperatures were taken upon arrival. The players had to record a temperature below 100 degrees.

- * Players were required to wear masks in the field.

- * Social distancing was observed when a team was batting. Players brought lawn chairs to accomplish this.

- * There was no tagging out a player. All plays were considered a force play.

- * Handshaking and fist pumps wasn't allowed.

- * Bats were wiped down and handled by the barrel.

- * New balls were frequently changed.



More than 170 players were able to be a part of the league in 2020.



Submitted photos

The Western Mass. Relics, a softball league for senior, had one of the few successful campaigns in 2020 with no cases of coronavirus during its season.

- * Spectators weren't allowed initially, but later in the season were allowed to watch the game from the parking lot.

The Western Mass Relics are

looking forward to the 2021 season and welcome all new players. For further information go to their website: westernmassrelics.org.

Pioneers to host Pelham clinic

LUDLOW – Western United Pioneers FC is excited to offer a soccer clinic in Pelham, MA for players in the Massachusetts North Region. The fall clinic provides off-season training and skill development by WUP FC coaches. There are two sessions available. sign up for one or both. It makes a great holiday gift for friends and family members.

This program is offered to boys and girls born in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. The four-week program includes one practice per week for a total of \$65 per session (\$130 for 2 sessions). Sessions will consist of a max of 15 players per field (COVID regulation for the players’ safety).

SESSION 1: MONDAYS 1/11, 1/25, 2/1, & 2/8
Boys and Girls Born 2013 and 2014: Session is at 5 p.m.

Boys and Girls Born 2010, 2011, and 2012: Session is at 6 p.m.

SESSION 2: MONDAYS 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, & 3/15
Boys and Girls Born 2013 and 2014: Session is at 5 p.m.

Boys and Girls Born 2010, 2011, and 2012: Session is at 6 p.m.

The sessions will be held at Pelham Elementary School at 45 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01002.

Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching “turleysports.” We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

MIAA signs deal with University Orthopedics

FRANKLIN – The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) has signed a multi-year partnership with University Orthopedics to become an Official Orthopedics Provider of the MIAA. The partnership coincides with the Feb. 1 opening of University’s first Massachusetts location in Mansfield.

The partnership will initially be focused on the southeastern part of the state, with University Orthopedics supporting MIAA events taking place in Districts 7, 8 and 9. University will also serve as the Presenting Sponsor of all upcoming MIAA South Sectional Tournaments.

“We are excited to partner with an organization like the MIAA that provides such an important role in the lives of thousands of student athletes and their families. With our new location in Mansfield, we look forward to serving these communities and growing our partnership in the years to come,” said Edward Akelman, MD, President of University Orthopedics.

“The health and safety of our Association’s 230,000 student-athletes participating at our 376 member schools is paramount to our mission,” said Bill Gaine, Executive Director of the MIAA. “The opportunity to enhance that mantra with the expertise and support of University Orthopedics is a welcomed and valued gift.” Through this partnership, University will provide video content related to safe training methods, recovery and other orthopedic health measures. The new UOI Facility is located at 10 Reservoir Street in Mansfield.

AHL season delayed to February

SPRINGFIELD – American Hockey League President and CEO Scott Howson has announced that the league’s Board of Governors has approved moving the anticipated start date of the 2020-21 season to Feb. 5, 2021, due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis.

The AHL continues to work with its member clubs to monitor developments and local guidelines in all 31 league cities. Further details regarding the 2020-21 American Hockey League season are still to be determined.

In operation since 1936, the AHL serves as the top development league for all 31 National Hockey League teams. Nearly 90 percent of today’s NHL players are American Hockey League graduates, and more than 100 honored members of the Hockey Hall of Fame spent time in the AHL in their careers.

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Athlete of the Week



Joe Chartier

Palmer High School

Chartier had one of the goals for Palmer in their final game of the season, a 3-1 win over rival Monson on Nov. 12.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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FIELD HOCKEY | from page 7

rent high school field hockey programs, providing equity for all, while gender specific programs are grown.”

According to her proposal, field hockey for boys would follow a 7 versus 7 format, similar to the format utilized for field hockey during the abbreviated fall season with COVID-19 restrictions. Boys field hockey would be a sport proposed to take place during the fall season. It would have a similar 18-contest limit with no more than three games per week on the fall schedule.

All sport committees approved of the proposal and sports medicine

and sportsmanship committees of the MIAA have also greenlighted the idea, paving the way for a BOD approval.

The rule would go into effect for the Fall 2021 season, but it could take a few years before teams would be developed. Rules would not need to be developed as the proposal stipulates boys field hockey would play under National Federation of High School rules, which Massachusetts has now adopted for most sports. One interesting caveat is that a proposal to bar boys from playing on girls teams was defeated. Girls normally play an 11 versus 11 format.

BASKETBALL | from page 7

tees, will be unveiled in the timeframe of the NCAA Final Four scheduled for early April. Event details are forthcoming, and the announcement timeline is subject to change.

The Class of 2021 Enshrinement ceremony is scheduled to take place in Springfield, Mass., in September 2021. As previously announced, the Class of 2020 Enshrinement ceremony has

been rescheduled and relocated due to COVID-19 and is scheduled for May 13-15, 2021 at Mohegan Sun.

Tickets for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2020 and 2021 Enshrinement ceremonies and various events surrounding the ceremonies will be on-sale at a later date. For the latest news and updates, follow @hoophall on Twitter and Instagram.

MONSON | from page 7

enced seniors and we also had some underclassmen who had some potential. I really enjoyed coaching them.”

Monson was put into the Hampshire West bubble, along with seven other teams. They wound up playing only five matches against Ware, Palmer, Pathfinder, Amherst, and South Hadley.

The Lady Mustangs had lost to South Hadley in the postseason tournament the past two seasons. They squeaked out a 2-1 home victory over the Lady Tigers on Nov. 2.

“South Hadley has been one of the marquee programs in Western Mass. for a few years now,” Degnan said. “We knew that we could compete against them this year and we were able to win a close game. It felt like a tournament game. We wish we could’ve played a few more games after that.”

Unfortunately, the Lady Mustangs season came to an end following the home victory against South Hadley because a member of the varsity squad tested positive for COVID-19.

“It was a little bit frustrating that we didn’t get the chance to complete our season and it wasn’t anybody’s fault. A few other teams also had their season ended,” Degnan said. “I feel bad, not only for my players, but for all of the players in Western Mass. that didn’t get the chance to play in the postseason tournament this year. You can make a lot of wonderful memories during the tournament.”

The eight Lady Mustangs seniors are Isabel Bailey, Olivia Colling, Lizzie Miller, Hannah Flagg, Camille Lobik, Madison Bonneau, Alex Doyle, and Sydney DeVries.

“We’re going to lose eight outstanding seniors,” Degnan said. “They’re a unique special group of players. I’m so proud of them and their accomplishments. It’s going to be dif-

ficult to see them graduate. They mean a lot to our program and they represent the school very well. I wish them nothing but the best in the future.”

Colling and Miller, who are four-year varsity soccer players, were the Lady Mustangs co-captains this past fall.

“Both of them are outstanding leaders,” Degnan said. “The trust that I had in them this year was through the roof.”

The Lady Mustangs will need to find replacements next year for their starting goalkeeper, three starting defenders, two starting midfielder’s, and a forward.

The only junior on the varsity roster is Rylee Bonneau, a defender.

“We didn’t have any seniors on the varsity team a couple of years ago,” Degnan added. “We’ve had some large senior classes and it’s rare to have only one senior.”

Rounding out the Lady Mustangs varsity squad were sophomore Emilia Finnegan, sophomore Samantha Stewart, freshman Aniah Myrie, freshman Ciara Monaghan, freshman Kendall Bodak, eighth grader Addison Peterson, and eighth grader Tennessee Murphy.

“I’m excited to have the opportunity to coach most of the underclassmen for at least two more years,” Degnan added. “They just need to continue working hard next year.”

Murphy, who is following in the footsteps of her older sisters, Brooke and Bee, led the Lady Mustangs with 13 goals this season. She scored 25 goals a year ago as a seventh grader. She’ll enter the 2021 campaign with a total of 45 career points.

Finnegan chipped in with six goals this season.

DEATH NOTICES

Donald J. Mann, 85
Died: Dec. 21, 2020
Services: To be held a later date

Edmund F. Wojtowicz, 93
Died: Dec. 19, 2020



The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

O B I T U A R I E S

Donald J. Mann, 1935-2020



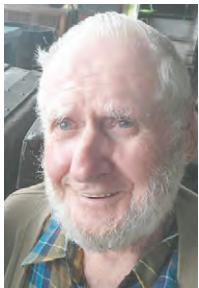
PALMER — Donald J. Mann, 85, passed away Monday, Dec. 21, 2020.

Donald was born in Monson, July 2, 1935, to the late Eugene W. and Eva (Gaboury) Mann. He served in the United States Army from 1952 to 1955 during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged with the rank of Private First Class and returned to Palmer to make his home. Donald worked at Pierson Industries in Palmer for over 30 years retiring in 1996.

He was a communicant of St. Thomas Church in Palmer, a member of the American Legion in Stafford, Conn., and a former union steward and member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Donald enjoyed reading, walking and was an avid New England sports

fan. He could also be found cheering for the Atlanta Braves and the Notre Dame “Fighting Irish.” Don could never turn down a good game of pitch or a competitive game of cribbage.

Donald was predeceased by his wife Gloria M. (Houle) Mann. He leaves his son, Donald J. Mann Jr. of Monson; a daughter, Donna L. Blatchley and her husband Matthew of Monson; grandchildren Erin Arbour and her husband Michael, Dylan Mann and his wife Bethany, Elyzza Blatchley, Drew Mann, Derek Mann and Desiree Mann; eight great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He also was predeceased by his daughter-in-law,



Tina Mann and his brothers Francis Mann and George Mann and sisters Ruth Palacko and Helen Corey.

The family would like to thank Palmer Healthcare for the care and compassion that was given to Donald during this difficult time. Funeral services have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home of Monson and are to be held in the spring.

For online condolences visit Lombardfuneral home.com. In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial donation in Donald’s name to the Palmer Senior Center 1029 Central Street Palmer, MA 01069.

Edmund F. Wojtowicz, 93

THREE RIVERS — Edmund F. Wojtowicz, 93, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020.

He was born in Three Rivers on Aug. 2, 1927, son of the late Frank and Julia (Kwiatowski) Wojtowicz. He was a proud World War II Navy veteran, serving aboard the Billie Mitchell Transport Ship. Eddie built and operated the Cement Well & Drain Tile Co. in Three Rivers for over 40 years.

An avid card player, bowler, tennis player, and fisherman, Eddie helped form the Amvets and Burleigh Park horseshoe leagues, playing for over 32 years. He met his wife, Pauline (Bracci) Wojtowicz, polka dancing at the former Forest Lake Pavilion. They enjoyed all the dances in the area and Las Vegas. Eddie and Pauline spent 30 years wintering in Naples, Fla. He was

a parishioner of Divine Mercy Parish, member of St. Stanislaus Club, and AMVETS POST 164, all in Three Rivers.

Family was very important to Eddie, many cruises and vacations with all 17 together.

Eddie will be sadly missed by Pauline, his loving wife of 71 years; his daughter Paula (Allan) Bessette of Washington; his son, Peter (Paulette) of Palmer; his daughter, Jean (William) Masztal of Ware; eight grandchildren: Eric Bessette of Washington; Dr. Jean Bessette (Dr. Tom Pashby) of Vermont; Jeffrey Wojtowicz of Colorado; Bryan Wojtowicz of Arizona; Jillian (Al) Bonino of Walpole; Jennifer Masztal of Vermont; Michael Masztal of



Medford; and Gregory Masztal of California; and many nieces and nephews.

Eddie was predeceased by his sister, Sophie Valtelhas and brother, Joseph.

Services were held on Monday, Dec. 28, 2020, beginning from the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home at 10 a.m. Burial and Military Committal Service took place at Saints Peter & Paul Cemetery and can be viewed at client.tribucast.com/tcid/247648887 for up to 90 days.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Eddie’s name to Divine Mercy Parish, 2267 Main St., Three Rivers, MA 01080. For more information visit beer-sandstory.com.

Police/Fire

Police Logs

PALMER POLICE

The Palmer Police Department responded to 11 arrests or summons for arrest from Dec. 15 to Dec. 22. Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, Dec. 15

Ashley Collazo, 27, of 2056 Palmer Rd., Three Rivers, was arrested at 7:02 p.m., around Palmer Road and South Street in Three Rivers, on charges of operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license for operating under the influence; operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration and possession/consumption of an open container of an alcoholic beverage.

Thursday, Dec. 17

Timothy S. Hall, 43, of 4112 High St., Thorndike, was arrested at 10:43 p.m., on River Street in Thorndike, on a warrant.

Friday, Dec. 18

Robert Lee Larose, 34, of 268 Palmer Rd. TRLR Apt. #63, Monson was arrested at 10:12 p.m., around Main Street and Panek Street in Three Rivers, on charges of operating under the influence of liquor; negligent operation of a motor vehicle and a marked lanes violation.

Sunday, Dec. 20

Julio F. Reyes, 21, of 213 E. Main St., Chicopee, was arrested at 9:39 p.m., on Old Warren Road in Palmer, on charges of operating under the influence of liquor; negligent operation of a motor vehicle and a motor vehicle lights violation.

Michael Anthony Schools, 22, of 2300 W. Pecos Rd. Apt. #320, Chandler, was arrested at 11:24 p.m., in Thorndike, on a warrant.

MONSON POLICE

The Monson Police Department responded to five calls from Dec. 13 to Dec. 19. Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Sunday, Dec. 13

Michael S. Dudczak, 37, of 935 Bay Rd., Amherst, was arrested at 2:01 a.m., on charges of operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration; operating an uninsured motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor.

Tuesday, Dec. 15

Nathanael J. Afonso, 25, of 29 Taylor St., East Longmeadow, was arrested at 1:34 p.m., on charges of a number plate violation to conceal ID; operating an uninsured motor vehicle; operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license; operating a unregistered motor vehicle and modifying motor vehicle height.

Fire Logs

PALMER FIRE DEPT.

The Palmer Fire Department responded to a total of nine calls from Dec. 16 through Dec. 22.

On Wednesday, Dec. 16, at 12:08 p.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Pleasant Street. The department returned to service at 12:19 p.m.

On Wednesday, Dec. 16, at 7:23 p.m., the department responded to a call, requesting medical assistance on Central Street. The department returned to service at 7:53 p.m.

On Thursday, Dec. 17, at 12:54 p.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on North Main Street. The department returned to service at 1:11 p.m.

On Thursday, Dec. 17, at 2:22 p.m., the department responded to a smoke detective activation on Pinney Street. The department returned to service at 2:46 p.m.

On Friday, Dec. 18, at 8:15 a.m., the department responded to a call, requesting medical assistance on Beacon Street. The department returned to service at 8:41 a.m.

On Friday, Dec. 18, at 8:41 a.m., the department responded to a call, requesting medical assistance on Wright Street. The department returned to service at 8:52 a.m.

On Sunday, Dec. 20, at 3:10 p.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident with a fluid spill on South Main Street. The department returned to service at 3:20 p.m.

On Monday, Dec. 21, at 2:32

p.m., the department responded to a call, requesting medical assistance on Knox Street. The department returned to service at 2:59 p.m.

On Tuesday, Dec. 22, at 12:00 p.m., the department responded to a call, requesting medical assistance on Walnut Street. The department returned to service at 12:22 p.m.

THREE RIVERS FIRE DEPT.

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to eight calls from Dec. 16 through Dec. 22.

On Wednesday, Dec. 16, at 1:10 p.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident on Sykes Street. The department returned to service at 1:31 p.m.

On Wednesday, Dec. 16, at 9:14 p.m., the department responded to an EMS incident on Quaboag Trail. The department returned to service at 9:16 p.m.

On Thursday, Dec. 17, at 7:38 a.m., the department responded to a call, requesting public assistance on Front Street. The department returned to service at 7:45 a.m.

On Thursday, Dec. 17, at 2:08 p.m., the department responded to an EMS incident on Sibley Street. The department returned to service at 2:14 p.m.

On Friday, Dec. 18, at 5:29 a.m., the department responded to an EMS incident on Palmer Street. The department returned to service at 5:58 a.m.

On Friday, Dec. 18, at 5:49 a.m., the department responded to an EMS incident on North Street.

The department returned to service at 6:20 a.m.

On Friday, Dec. 18, at 11:51 a.m., the department responded to an EMS incident on Off Lariviere Street. The department returned to service at 12:16 p.m.

On Tuesday, Dec. 22, at 10:58 a.m., the department responded to an oven malfunction on Burlingame Road. The department returned to service at 11:10 a.m.

BONDSVILLE FIRE DEPT.

The Bondsville Fire Department responded to a total of two calls from Dec. 15 through Dec. 21.

On Friday, Dec. 18, at 3:50 p.m., the department responded to a call, requesting medical assistance on South Main Street. The call was cancelled en route and the department returned to service at 3:54 p.m.

On Monday, Dec. 21, at 1:46 p.m., the department responded to a call requesting medical assistance on Main Street. The department returned to service at 2:05 p.m.

MONSON FIRE DEPT.

The Monson Fire Department responded to a total of 22 EMS calls and one fire call from Dec. 14 through Dec. 20.

On Wednesday, Dec. 16, at 3:17 p.m., the department responded to an outside fire on Brimfield Road. The department returned to service at 3:20 p.m.

Historic Classical hosts nationally acclaimed Navy artist Jan. 10

SPRINGFIELD — Historic Classical, Inc. will host a free online program 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 10.

Wilma Parker, a 1959 graduate of Classical High School, will speak on her Legacy Painting, Homecoming NAS Alameda. She spent three years working on the 44 x 128” oil painting of the Naval Air Station located in Alameda, California. Captain James Dodge had been charged with closure of the base. The work was commissioned by Captain Dodge, on behalf of the U.S. Navy to preserve the legacy and history of NAS Alameda.

Parker’s charge was to accurately portray all the planes from

the World War II Doolittle raiders to present day, and in their correct approach positions. The painting includes the historic aircraft carrier Hornet on the left of the mural, up to the then new carrier Carl Vinson, that many had thought would never have a mission.

But it was from the deck of the Carl Vinson that the body of Osama bin Laden was buried at sea in 2011.

A full-sized copy of the painting was framed and mounted through a grant provided by the Springfield Cultural Council. It is on display in the Historic Classical Museum, housed within the Classical Condominiums, 235 State Street

in Springfield. It will be unveiled during the program.

After Classical High School, Wilma Parker graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design and the School of The Art Institute of Chicago. Her career led her from Springfield to Chicago to San Francisco, where she currently resides, and at least annually to the East and to Europe where she continues to develop her art. Currently, she works exclusively for the U.S. Navy and the Blues and Royals, the Household Calvary, Windsor Barracks in Great Britain.

Video helps children who stutter

Children, who stutter have a lot to say and friends can show them how in Stuttering: For Kids By Kids, a DVD in English and Spanish starring children, who stutter, available at most public libraries or through interlibrary loan.

Many children, who stutter, have never met others who struggle with the same disability. In this DVD from the Stuttering Foundation, they meet children, who recount how they handle challenges such as teasing, speaking out in class and teaching others about stuttering.

Swish, a lively and engaging animated basketball character designed by students at Purdue University, narrates the DVD. The children, who range in age from first-graders to high school students, offer frank and sometimes differing views of

stuttering.

For example, Matthew, age 10, says about his speech difficulties, “It’s no big deal,” but Kate, age 9, worries about talking, what is going to happen next and whether or not she’ll stutter. Arianne, age 14, says, “The hardest part about stuttering is to get through it and to stay in there when you’re stuck.” Umang, age 12, agrees, “Sometimes it gets kind of annoying when you want to say something and you can’t. I also get worried what other people might think if I do stutter and wonder if I’ll be able to get out of my blocks and things.”

“All those interested in helping kids learn more about stuttering will want to see this tape,” said speech-language pathologist Bill Murphy, of Purdue University. “The

children featured are a perfect example of how to openly and honestly handle stuttering.” “This is an important tool for families and teachers of kids who stutter,” added Jane Fraser, president of the nonprofit Stuttering Foundation.

Other professionals and specialists in stuttering in this production include Kristin Chmela of Northwestern University, Joe Donaher of Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Lisa Scott of Florida State University, and Lee Caggiano of Friends.

The 73-year-old nonprofit foundation has provided free materials to public libraries nationwide. A library that will shelve them can download a request form at <http://www.stutteringhelp.org/libraries-information>.

BBB warns of COVID-19 vaccine scams

With United States and Canada approving a COVID-19 vaccine, government officials expect scams to emerge as distribution begins. Watch out for everything from phony treatments to phishing messages.

Government officials have already been cracking down on phony COVID testing kits and treatments. Now, they are ramping up efforts to prevent the sale of fake vaccines.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is working with the drug companies developing the vaccines to stop the sale and distribution of phony versions. Also, the Federal Trade Commission issued warning letters to several companies claiming they had a product to cure or prevent the virus.

Selling fake vaccines and other treatments is likely only one of many ways scammers will try to cash in on the vaccine release. Watch out for phishing messages attempting to trick you into sharing your passwords and personal information. Con artists have already impersonated the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in phishing emails that claim to have news about the disease. BBB has also seen an increase in scams using robocalls to impersonate government officials.

How to Spot a Coronavirus Vaccine Con:

Research carefully: Scammers are very creative, so be skeptical of anything that seems too good or crazy to be true. Double-check any information about the vaccine with official news sources. And be aware that none of the vaccines can be currently purchased online or in stores.

Check with your doctor: If you want a vaccine early, reach out to your healthcare provider about your options. If you don’t have a primary care physician, check out the official website of your local health department for more information

Ignore calls for immediate action. While you may want to be first in line for the vaccine, don’t let that sense of urgency cloud your judgment. Scammers try to get you

to act before you think. Don’t fall for it.

Think the link may be real? Double-check the URL. Scammers often buy official-looking URLs to use in their cons. Be careful that the link is really what it pretends to be. If the message alleges to come from the local government, make sure the URL ends in .gov (for the United States) or .ca (for Canada). When in doubt, perform a separate Internet search for the website.

For More Information

Read more about coronavirus scams on the Federal Trade Commission’s website. Learn more about the disease at the CDC’s FAQ page. Also, the FDA is updating this page about its progress in developing a treatment for coronavirus.

BBB has identified many ways in which scammers are cashing in the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more about clinical trial scams, contact-tracing cons, counterfeit facemasks and government agency imposters.

USDA announces 2021 application ranking dates for conservation programs

AMHERST – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service encourages people, who own farm or forest land, to sign up for conservation assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Agricultural Management Assistance program. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year; however, the next ranking batching date will be Friday, Jan. 15, 2021.

The Jan. 15 batching period will fund Conservation Activity Plans through EQIP, with future batching periods offering assistance in other funding pools for both programs. A funding pool is an amount of money that NRCS has set aside for special categories of applications. Each funding pool has its own ranking criteria and applicants will compete only with other applicants in that specific pool.

Farmers and forest landowners can use CAPs to address specific natural resource objectives such as nutrient and pest management, forestry, energy conservation, or transitioning to organic agriculture. EQIP participants who receive financial assistance for a CAP will work with a technical service provider to develop the plan. The participant chooses a TSP from an NRCS-approved list at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/tsp/>.

People may apply for NRCS conservation programs at any time; complete applications are ranked for funding in batches periodically throughout the year. All applications determined eligible and high priority by close of business on the ranking date will be considered in the current funding cycle.

The following application ranking dates for 2021, pending available funds, are scheduled: Feb. 19, March 19, April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16 and Aug. 20.

Ranking dates and the application process are subject to change. Contact your local field office for the latest information. For more information on available programs, the application process, and natural resource priorities, visit the Massachusetts NRCS website at www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov.

"If you operate a farm or manage forest land and want to improve your land, we can help," said Dan Wright, state conservationist for NRCS in Massachusetts. "You can discuss your vision for your land with one of our conservation planners, who will explain the conservation planning process and how to apply for financial assistance."

EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers and forest land owners to address natural resource concerns through an array of conservation practices. Assistance is available to support private landowners and managers in addressing farm, field, forest, wildlife, water, and/or plant management issues including: erosion control, farm and forestry conservation plans, fencing for grazing systems, forest stand improvement, grazing plans, irrigation systems, pasture and hayland planting, pollinator habitat, protection of heavy use areas for livestock restoration and management of declining habitat, riparian buffers, seasonal high tunnels, soil health management plans, waste storage facilities and wildlife habitat management and development.

The AMA program provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to voluntarily address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into their farming operations. Massachusetts producers may construct or improve water management structures or irrigation structures and implement high tunnels to benefit plant productivity.

AMA is available in 16 states where Federal Crop Insurance Program participation is historically low: Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia and Wyoming.

For more information, people may contact their local USDA-NRCS office: Greenfield field office at 413-772-0384, ext. 3, serving Franklin County; Hadley field office at 413-585-1000, ext. 3, serving Hampden and Hampshire Counties; Holden field office at 508-829-4477, ext. 3, serving Worcester County; Pittsfield field office at 413-443-1776, ext. 3, serving Berkshire County; Westford field office at 978-692-1904, ext. 3, serving Essex, Middlesex and Suffolk Counties; Wareham field office at 508-295-5151, ext. 2, serving Bristol, Norfolk and Plymouth Counties and West Yarmouth field office at 508-771-6476, serving Cape Cod and the Islands.

Some of the EQIP funding will be provided to farmers and forest landowners via the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, which encourages partner organizations to join in efforts with producers to increase the restoration and sustainable use of soil, water, wildlife and related natural resources on regional or watershed scales. Through the RCPP program, NRCS and its partners help producers install and maintain conservation activities in selected project areas. Partners leverage RCPP funding in project areas and report on the benefits achieved.

NRCS is a federal agency that works hand-in-hand with conservation districts and the people of Massachusetts to improve and protect soil, water and other natural resources.

NOTICE

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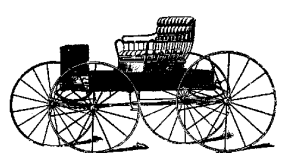
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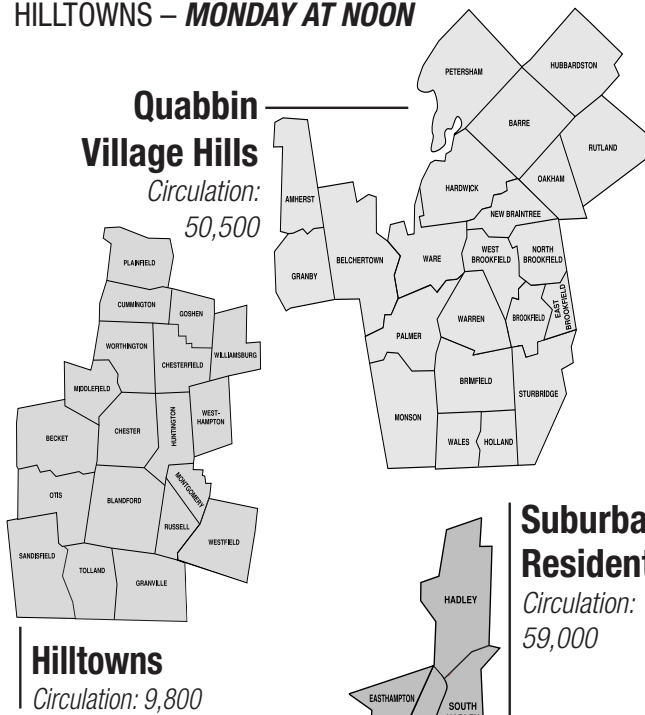
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1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
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21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
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33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
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Docket No. HS20A0042AD
CITATION**

**G.L. c. 210, § 6
In the matter of:
Kaylyn Elizabeth Atha
To: Jason W Atha**
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:

**Anthony Cortesi of Belchertown, MA
Jocelyn Atha of Belchertown, MA**

requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Kaylyn Elizabeth Cortesi

If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person. An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: Northampton ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 01/20/2021

WITNESS, Hon. Linda S Fidnick, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 18, 2020

Michael J Carey
Register of Probate
12/24, 12/31/2020, 1/07/2021

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Mary Ellen Barker to CitiFinancial Services, Inc., dated July 25, 2005 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 15204, Page 438 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage Argolica LLC is the present holder by Assignment from CitiFinancial Services, Inc. to CitiFinancial, Inc. dated May 28, 2013 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 19857, Page 150, and Assignment from CitiFinancial Servicing LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company, successor by merger to CitiFinancial Services, Inc. to CitiFinancial Servicing LLC dated December 20, 2013 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 20143, Page 473, and Assignment from CFNA Receivables (MD), Inc. f/k/a CitiFinancial, Inc. to CitiFinancial Servicing LLC dated May 11, 2016 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 21173, Page 528, and Assignment from CitiFinancial Servicing LLC to Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC dated July 10, 2017 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 21768, Page 442, and Assignment from Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC to Koitere Dispositions, LLC dated May 11, 2018 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 22226, Page 207, and Assignment from Koitere Dispositions, LLC to Atlantica, LLC dated May 11, 2018 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 22226, Page 208, and Assignment from Atlantica, LLC to Anthium, LLC dated June 20, 2018 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 23109, Page 145, and Assignment from Alaska Louisiana Partners, A Limited Partnership dated February 28, 2020 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 23259, Page 185, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged

premises located at 85 Upper Palmer Road, Monson, MA 01057 will be sold at a Public Auction at **12:00 PM on January 25, 2021**, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain tract of land, with the buildings thereon, situate in Monson, Hampden County, Massachusetts, on the easterly side of Upper Palmer Road, formerly known as Margaret Street, Granite Street, and Quarry Road. Bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point in the easterly side of said Upper Palmer Road, at the northwest corner of the tract to be conveyed and at the southwest corner of land now or formerly of John S. And Catherine A. Arooth; thence

S. 71 degrees 43' 05" E. Along land of said Arooth, one hundred forty-five (145) feet to a brook; thence

Southerly along said brook two hundred fifty-five (255) feet to a point in line of land now or formerly of one stock; thence

N. 71 degrees 43' 05" W. Along last named land, to the easterly side of said Upper Palmer Road; thence

Northerly along the easterly side of said Upper Palmer Road, two hundred fifty-five (255) feet to the place of beginning.

Being the same property conveyed to Mary Ellen Barker by deed from Alan M. Barker, Mary Ellen Barker and Frances R. Barker recorded 04/04/1996 in Deed Book 9440 Page 270, in the Registry of Deeds Plan for Hampden County, Massachusetts.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 9440, Page 270.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851 or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Argolica LLC
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Barker, Mary, 13-012933
12/31/2020, 1/07, 1/14/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P2086EA**

**Estate of:
Chester Anthony Giza
Date of Death: 06/10/2020
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by: **Christopher C Giza** of Culver City, CA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Christopher C Giza** of Culver City, CA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said

estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/08/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 23, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
12/31/20

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Gloria T. Kay to GSF Mortgage Corporation, dated July 6, 2006 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 16041, Page 1 of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Financial Freedom Acquisition LLC, recorded on January 27, 2010, in Book No. 18166, at Page 106

GSF Mortgage Corporation to Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, recorded on March 6, 2018, in Book No. 22084, at Page 338

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Financial Freedom Acquisition LLC, its successor or assigns to Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee for Mortgage Assets Management Series I Trust, recorded on October 30, 2020, in Book No. 23506, at Page 34

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **3:00 PM on January 27, 2021**, on the mortgaged premises located at 61 East Brimfield Road, Holland, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:
The land in said Holland situated on the westerly side of East Brimfield Road, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the southeasterly corner thereof, at an iron pipe on the westerly side of said East Brimfield Road, distant 592 feet southerly from a stone wall at land now or formerly of the heirs of Theodore E. Blodgett; thence WESTERLY: by land now or formerly of Lewis F. Blodgett, 122 feet to an iron pipe at a stone wall; thence NORTHERLY: along a stone wall by land of said Blodgett,

about 307.4 feet to an iron pipe at land conveyed by the grantees to Edward E. Lewis et ux.; thence EASTERLY: by land of Lewis, about 204 feet to an iron pipe on the westerly side of East Brimfield Road; and thence SOUTHERLY: 300 Feet, more or less, along the westerly side of East Brimfield Road to the point of beginning.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 2485, P 498, B 3252, Page 3, B 15349, P 354.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, N.A. AS TRUSTEE FOR MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT SERIES I TRUST
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
18792
12/31/2020, 1/07, 1/14/2021

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of MA Gen. Laws, Chap. 255, Sec. 39A, the following vehicles will be sold at public auction for towing and storage charges due:

J E E P V I N :
1J4FJ68S3WL197618
Alexandrea Chadwick
77 E. Main ST W.
Brookfield, MA; **J E E P V I N :**
1C4BJWDG7GL310154
Thomas Geas 1139 Westfield
ST W. Springfield, MA;
VOLKSWAGEN V I N :
3VWRZ71K49M122907
Isaiah Sallomo 159
Pleasant ST Easthampton,
MA; **ACURA V I N :**
2HNYD18916H540696
Felicia Ducharme 56
Daniel SQ Belchertown,
MA; **HONDA V I N :**
1HGEM22582L045477
Julie Weeney 22
Washburn AVE Apt. 2
Warren, MA; **KIA V I N :**
KNRFX4A64GS532667
Nadia Santiago 139
Shearer ST Palmer, MA;
CHEVROLET V I N :
1CYT82KL8CF6S97EC4
30133 Ashley Papuzynski
2116 Calkins RD Palmer,
MA. This auction is to take place on January 8, 2021, 10:00 A.M. at LaBonte's & Son LLC, 241 Wilbraham St., Palmer, MA 01069.
12/24, 12/31/2020, 1/07/2021

**PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWN OF MONSON**
Vertex Tower Assets, LLC (the "Applicant") has applied for a Special Permit

from the Town of Monson Planning Board to construct a Wireless Communications Facility including a 100' tall monopole style tower at **Lakeside Drive, Tax Assessors Parcel 52-24, on land owned by Peter D. Martins and Lori S. Martins.** The Applicant will conduct a Visual Demonstration to illustrate the location and height of the proposed Facility by raising a balloon at and to the height of the proposed Facility. Said Visual Demonstration will be held **SATURDAY JANUARY 9, 2021 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm**, weather and wind conditions permitting. In the event of inclement weather on January 9, 2021, the Visual Demonstration will be rescheduled to Sunday January 10, 2021, wind and weather conditions permitting. In the event of inclement weather on January 9, 2021 and January 10, 2021, the Visual Demonstration will be rescheduled to Saturday, January 16, 2021 or Sunday January 17, 2021, wind and weather conditions permitting. If you have any questions concerning said Visual Demonstration, please contact the Town of Monson Planning Board, hwhilson@monson-ma.gov OR Francis D. Parisi, Esq., Parisi Law Associates, P.C., PHONE: (401) 447-8500, EMAIL: fp@parisi-plapc.com. Please check the Parisi Law Associates, P.C. website www.plapc.com after noon on the day before the scheduled date(s) to determine if the balloon will be up the following day.
12/24, 12/31/2020

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by John Wojnilowicz and Kevin Brooke to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, acting solely as a nominee for NovaStar Mortgage, Inc., dated April 13, 2006 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 15828, Page 529 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage The Bank of New York Mellon, f/k/a The Bank of New York as successor in interest to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as Trustee for NovaStar Mortgage Funding Trust, Series 2006-2, NovaStar Home Equity Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-2 is the present holder by Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Novastar Mortgage, Inc. to The Bank of New York Mellon, f/k/a The Bank of New York as successor in interest to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as Trustee for NovaStar Mortgage Funding Trust, Series 2006-2, NovaStar Home Equity Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-2 dated January 17, 2019 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 22530, Page 162, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 2 Barker Street, Three Rivers (Palmer), MA 01080 will be sold at a Public Auction at **11:00 AM on January 13, 2021**, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain tract of land with buildings thereon situate on the westerly side of Barker Street in the Village of Three Rivers, in

said Palmer, bounded and described as follows;

Beginning at a stone in the westerly side of said Barker Street and in the southerly line of a private way fifty (50) feet wide known as Chudy Avenue, said bound being fifty (50) feet S. 8° 14' W. measured along the westerly side of said Barker Street from an iron pin at the southeasterly corner of land now or formerly of one Mowduk; thence

S. 8° 14' W. a l o n g the westerly side of said Barker Street eighty (80) feet to a point; thence

N. 83° 58' W. a l o n g land now or formerly of Frank Chudy one hundred (100) feet; thence

N. 8° 14' E. a l o n g land now or formerly of Frank Chudy eighty (80) feet to the southerly line of said Chudy Avenue; thence

S. 83° 58' E. a l o n g the southerly line of said Chudy Avenue one hundred (100) feet to the place of beginning.

Together with the right, in common with Frank Chudy, his heirs and assigns to use, for all the purposes of a public way, said private way known as Chudy Avenue.

Together also with the right to empty and discharge sewage from the conveyed premises into the sewer pipe of said Chudy in said Chudy Avenue and the right, in common with said Chudy, his heirs and assigns, to convey said sewage through said pipe as now laid in said Chudy Avenue, Barker Street and land now or formerly of one Musgrave to the town sewer in Belchertown Road; together with the right to enter upon said lands for the purpose of maintaining and relaying said sewer pipe, in the event that Frank Chudy, his heirs or assigns, shall neglect to repair or maintain the same.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 15828, Page 527. See also deed recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 20156, Page 456.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851 or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

The Bank of New York Mellon, f/k/a The Bank of New York as successor in interest to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as Trustee for NovaStar Mortgage Funding Trust, Series 2006-2, NovaStar Home Equity Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-2

Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Wojnilowicz, John and
Brooke, Kevin, 13-011709
12/17, 12/24, 12/31/2020

Classroom

Pathfinder student finds his career choice while seeing life through a lens

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER – What started off as a hobby for Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School junior Michael Gilbert has turned into a potential lifelong career.

Even before he earns his high school diploma, Gilbert, of Belchertown, is already a professional photographer and filmmaker.

While attending Pathfinder to study advanced manufacturing, Gilbert said his passion for film grew during his freshman year. Already into making videos with his friends, the arts of photography and videography were something Gilbert gravitated to organically. This hobby of his elevated to something more serious after Michael's parents, Tina and Paul Gilbert, bought him his first professional quality camera.

During August of 2019, Gilbert decided to search for people to work with and discovered the power lifting company Gorilla Headquarters in Holyoke. After working closely with them and producing photo and video content for the company, Gilbert expanded his services to other companies, such as F45 Training in Hadley, ASP Athletic Strength Training in Ashville and more.

Gilbert also produced videos for Pathfinder and has been hired by others to film business promos and take portraits.

Always possessed with the skill of being a good talker, Gilbert said he's been able to leverage his communication and interpersonal skills to help promote his business. The work he produces also speaks volumes.

"Once you do a few videos for a bunch of companies, your name gets out there and people start reaching out," said Gilbert.

"It's pretty cool seeing all of the feedback and getting to know all these businesses I would have never know. I'm very fortunate to have this talent shared with the rest of Massachusetts and hopefully the rest of the world someday."

In addition to his business endeavors, Gilbert also was recently selected by MassDOT as the Junior/Senior category grand prize recipient of the Safe Streets Smart Trips High School Video Contest. Having only one week to write a script, Gilbert produced a one-minute video titled "The Call Can Wait," with classmates/actors Austin Tocci, Nicholas Hein and Kevin Aldrich.

After the Nov. 23 announcement that he had won, Gilbert said he was super excited and it was "an unreal moment" that made producing the video worth the effort.

Others have also expressed great joy in Gilbert's accomplishment, such as Pathfinder's Assistant Principal, Carrie Auffrey.

"We are so incredibly proud of these young men," said Auffrey.

"Their skills working together as a team allowed this production to come together in a matter of days. Michael Gilbert, the mastermind, director and filmmaker of this project, is exceptionally talented with a camera in his hands and we are thrilled that his work is already being recognized and rewarded. We can't wait to see what the future holds for him."

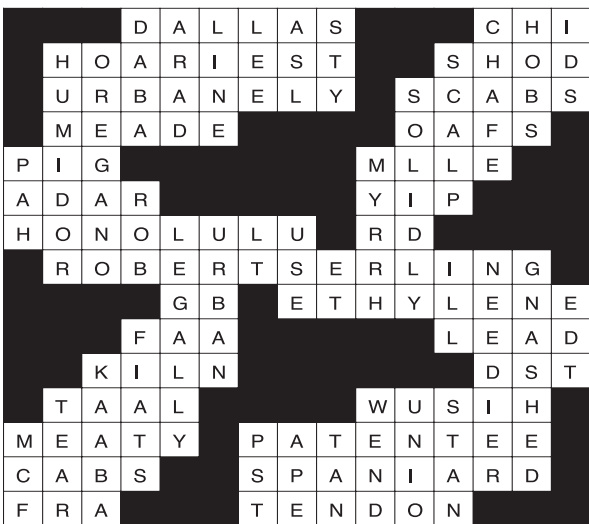
Going further, Gilbert plans to continue his business and expand his growing list of clients.

"There's so much out there in the space I can do," said Gilbert. "There's so much I can do in this industry. It's all about what happens next."

To view Gilbert's work, visit therealmichaelgilbert.com, go to his Instagram page (@therealmichaelgilbert) and his YouTube channel (Michael Gilbert). All accounts are associated with his production company, Gilbert Productions.



Michael Gilbert



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3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Christmas lights winners



Through A Child's Eye: 83 Beech Street Lake Thompson.



Merry & Bright: 221 Breckenridge Street Palmer.



Clark Griswold (People's Choice): 23 Fieldstone Drive Palmer.



The Standout Truck, sponsored by Demore's, takes the judges around town to get a close look at all the contestants.

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SLICED IN OUR DELI

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CONTEST from page 1

around, we realized what a special town Palmer can be. It's full of community spirit."

Cash awards were given to each of the winners. Here is the list of winners by category and street:

Traditionally Elegant - \$200 Cash Prize, 4404 Main Street, Thorndike

Clark Griswold Award (Peoples Choice) \$150 Cash Prize, 23 Fieldstone Drive Palmer



- Winning Business: Small Town Treasures.**
- Through A Child's Eye** - \$100 Cash Prize, 83 Beech Street Lake Thompson - Palmer
- Merry and Bright** - \$100 Cash Prize, 221 Breckenridge Street Palmer
- Best Door** - \$50 Cash Prize, 2013 Quaboag Street Three Rivers
- Best Window** - \$50 Cash Prize, 90 Peterson Street, Palmer
- Business Winner** - \$100 Cash Prize, Small Town Treasures, 1422 N Main Street Palmer
- Flurry's Surprise** - Prize: Metal Art Poinsettia, 2001 Overlook Drive Three Rivers

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ACADEMICS • TUESDAY, JAN. 19 / 6 PM EST

Entrepreneurship, Economics & Finance • THURSDAY, JAN. 21 / 6 PM EST

Middle School • TUESDAY, JAN. 26 / 6 PM EST

INTERNATIONAL • WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27 / 7:30 AM EST

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